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NIKKI KAHN/LATWP

Marines prepare to deploy on a large-scale mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan, early Thursday. The goal of the operation is to clear insurgents from the hotly contested region before the nation's Aug. 20 presidential election.

Major Afghan assault begins

Officials describe offensive as the largest Marine operation since Fallujah in 2004

BY JASON STRAZIUSO
The Associated Press

NAWA, Afghanistan — U.S. Marines hiked through searing heat and took fire from small pockets of militants Thursday after landing in this Taliban-controlled southern region of tree-lined fields, mud homes and crisscrossing waterways in the first major operation under President Barack Obama's strategy to stabilize Afghanistan.

The southern offensive was launched shortly after 1 a.m. Thursday, as thousands of Marines poured from helicopters and armored vehicles into Taliban-controlled villages in Helmand province, a

Taliban stronghold and the world's largest opium poppy-producing area. The goal is to clear insurgents from the hotly contested region before the nation's Aug. 20 presidential election.

One Marine was killed during the operation and several others had been injured, the Marine Corps announced Thursday.

Officials described the offensive as the largest and fastest-moving of the war's new phase and the biggest Marine assault since the one in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004. It involves nearly 4,000 newly arrived Marines plus 650 Afghan forces. British forces last week led similar, but smaller, missions to clear out insurgents in Helmand and neighboring Kandahar

province.

"Where we go we will stay, and where we stay, we will hold, build and work toward transition of all security responsibilities to Afghan forces," Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson said in a statement.

Transport helicopters carried hundreds of Marines into the village of Nawa, some 20 miles south of the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, in a region where no U.S. or other NATO troops have operated in large numbers. The troops took many insurgents by surprise, dropping behind Taliban lines, said Capt. Drew Schoenmaker, from Greene, N.Y.

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Pistons land
Gordon and
Villanueva
in free
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Ben Gordon

Intense search on for U.S.
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U.S. taxes driving
tobacco costs up
at overseas bases
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Celebrating
America
Happy Fourth of July!

N. Korea launches 4 short-range missiles

BY JAE-SOON CHANG
The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea test-fired four short-range missiles Thursday, South Korea's Defense Ministry said, a move that aggravates already high tensions following Pyongyang's recent nuclear test and U.N. sanctions imposed as punishment.

Two ground-to-ship missiles were fired from the eastern coastal city of Wonsan on Thursday afternoon, a ministry official said on condition of anonymity, citing department policy.

"It's not a good sign because they are demonstrating their military power."

Yu Myung-hwan
South Korean
foreign minister

Yonhap news agency, citing an unnamed military official, reported all four missiles flew about 60 miles and identified them as KN-01 missiles with a range of up to 100 miles.

The launches came as North Korea's relations with the United States, South Korea and other countries were already severely strained after its May 25 underground nuclear test and a series of missile firings. The U.N. Security Council adopted tough sanctions last month to punish the communist regime.

"We had expected that they will fire short-range missiles at any time," South Korea's Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan told The Associated Press at a reception held at the U.S. ambassador's residence to mark Independence Day. "It's not a good sign because they are demonstrating their military power."

SEE MISSILES ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Quitting smoking is a goal of mine, so the price increase is one more incentive to consider in giving it up."

— Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Campbell, who has been smoking for eight years, on quitting now that tobacco prices are on the rise significantly at AAFES and NEX.

See story on Page 8

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COMING TOMORROW

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Jon and
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Missiles: Russia, Japan call for N. Korea to halt launches

MISSILES, FROM PAGE 1

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso called the missile launches "provocative acts" and urged the North to refrain.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko also expressed concern over the North's missile launches, saying, "We have always asked North Koreans to abstain from actions that may exacerbate the situation."

The first launch came just before the U.S. ambassador's reception started in the late afternoon, while the second and third came as it was under way, based on times provided by the Defense Ministry. The timing for the fourth launch was not immediately available.

While it was not clear if the firings were meant to coincide with the event, the North did launch a long-range missile in 2006 in the early morning hours of July 5, which coincided with the July 4 holiday in the United States.

The United States is seeking Chinese support to enforce U.N. sanctions imposed on the North to punish it over the nuclear test. Philip Goldberg, in charge of coordinating the implementation of sanctions against the North, told reporters in Beijing that he had "very good conversations" with Chinese officials Thursday, though did not give details of the talks.

Separately, China's top nuclear envoy, Wu Dawei, left Thursday for Russia as part of diplomatic efforts to push North Korea back to the stalled nuclear disarmament talks, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The trip will also take Wu to the U.S., Japan, and South Korea, the ministry said. The five nations



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

People at a train station in Seoul stop Thursday to watch a television broadcasting an undated image of a North Korea missile launch. North Korean test-fired two short-range missiles Thursday, South Korea's Defense Ministry said, a move that aggravates already high tensions following Pyongyang's recent nuclear test and U.N. sanctions imposed as punishment.

have engaged in the talks since 2003 in an effort to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear programs in return for economic aid and other concessions.

"The purpose of Wu Dawei's visit is to exchange views with

relevant parties on the nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in a regular press briefing.

Earlier in the day, Seoul's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported that North Korea could fire a barrage of missiles in coming days, including ballistic Scud or Rodong rockets that the North is banned from testing under U.N. resolutions.

North Korea has also threatened to test-fire an intercontinental ballistic missile. Last month, a Japanese newspaper reported that the North could test-fire a long-range missile toward Hawaii as early as July 4. The U.S. has increased defenses around the island state.

But Seoul's YTN television

news network said Thursday there are no signs of an imminent long-range missile launch.

The reported missile moves came after a North Korean ship — suspected of possibly carrying illicit weapons — changed course and was heading back the way it came after remaining under U.S. surveillance for more than a week.

The North Korean ship is the first vessel monitored under the new U.N. sanctions that seek to clamp down on Pyongyang's trading of banned arms and weapons-related material by requiring U.N. member states to request inspections of ships suspected of carrying prohibited cargo.

The North has said it would consider the interception of its ships a declaration of war.

Corrections

■ A July 3 story about a military smoking ban should have said the nonprofit, independent Institute of Medicine was responsible for the smoking study.

■ A July 2 story about a court-martial stemming from a brawl in South Korea misstated the actions taken against

Sgt. Markease Joyner and Spc. Markelle Joyner. The brothers were detained and questioned after the incident but were not arrested. They are each charged with two counts of aggravated assault and one count of providing a false official statement. Their first names were also misspelled.

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You're all wet, sir



CHELSEA KENNEDY/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Newly promoted Navy officers are soaked by other officers Wednesday during a traditional wetting-down after a promotion ceremony on the fantail of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan. The Ronald Reagan is underway in the Indian Ocean.

New Navy camouflage uniforms starting to appear across the globe

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Strange blue "cammies" are showing up here and there at bases overseas.

Those servicemembers aren't from a visiting military. They're wearing the Navy's newest wardrobe addition.

An updated Navy working uniform has been under development for some time and is now on exchange shelves — and sailors — in the United States.

But don't expect to buy it off the rack this summer or next summer in Japan, Guam and Europe. Sailors in those areas must wait until October 2010, according to the schedule published in a Navy-wide bulletin.

The overseas areas are last on the list for the scheduled rollout of the camouflage uniforms, which will be the standard working uniform on the shore and eventually replace other working uniforms, wash khakis and non-tactical camouflage uniforms.

Expect to see more of the blue and gray work camies overseas, though.

"Leadership is wearing it now, and it is issued in boot camp," said Lt. Cate Wallace, spokeswoman for the Navy's 7th Fleet.

The uniforms are authorized for those who can buy them,

which for now includes only a couple of regions in the United States.

Exchanges in the southeast U.S. already stock the uniforms and stores on the West Coast will be selling them by January, according to the Navy rollout schedule.

Last month, the Navy eased restrictions on stateside soldiers who are already wearing the uniform, allowing them to make short stops at off-base locations such as gas stations and convenience stores while still in uniform.

Meanwhile, sightings remain rare in Japan. Commanders, sailors visiting from the U.S. and sailors fresh from boot camp are turning up in the distinctive, minimal uniform.

The camouflage outfit has generated interest and criticism for its departure from traditional Navy dress.

When October 2010 arrives, sailors in Japan, Guam and Europe will have two months to switch out the current working uniforms, which will no longer be allowed after December 2010, the Navy said.

E-mail Travis J. Tritten at: trittent@pstripes.osd.mil

Dairyshake mix in rations recalled

By BRYCE S. DUBEE
Stars and Stripes

A militarywide recall has been issued for Dairyshake powders found in Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs) and Unitized Group Rations-Express (UGR-Es).

Plainview Milk Products Cooperative in Minnesota issued the voluntary recall after a Food and Drug Administration inspection found salmonella contamination on some of the facility's equipment, according to an FDA news release dated June 29.

The dairy cooperative might have shipped nonfat dry milk, fruit stabilizers, whey protein, and gum products contaminated with the bacteria between June 2007 and June 2009, according to the Defense Supply Center.

People should not consume the Dairyshake powder rations and should destroy any Dairyshake powders contained in the meals.

The products affected by the recall are the vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and strawberry-banana flavors of the Dairyshake powder.

Plainview sells its products to

distributors and manufacturers, which may then use those ingredients in other products, according to the release.

"The remainder of the MRE/UGR-E menu is consumable and should not be discarded/destroyed," a DSC news release said.

In Japan, commissary officials at Yokota Air Base and the Army's Camp Zama said all MREs on store shelves were pulled immediately once the recall was announced.

The Yokota commissary sold only a limited amount of the product, said store manager Ciro Quaranta. He said all its MREs, including those in the commissary warehouse, have been put on hold to be inspected and destroyed.

A Zama commissary official said similar measures have been taken.

No illnesses have been reported from consuming the powder, and an investigation to determine the source of the contamination continues, the FDA said.

E-mail Bryce S. Dubee at: dubeeb@pstripes.osd.mil

It's that time of year again



Above: In preparation for monsoon season in South Korea, members of the 2nd Battalion (Assault), 2nd Aviation Regiment conducted a typhoon drill Friday at K-16 Air Base. The airmen folded the blades of 16 helicopters, stored the helos in hangars, and placed sandbags at flood-prone locations. The drill turned out to be well-timed: Seoul received several inches of rain in less than an hour Thursday morning.

Left: Members of the 2nd Battalion (Assault), 2nd Aviation Regiment secure a helicopter's blades during the drill.

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Economy seen as key in Afghanistan

National security adviser: 'Military alone' will not win fight against Taliban

By BOB WOODWARD
The Washington Post

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — National security adviser James L. Jones told U.S. military commanders here last week that the Obama administration wants to hold troop levels flat for now, and focus instead on carrying out the previously approved strategy of increased economic development, improved governance and participation by the Afghan military and civilians in the conflict.

The message seems designed to cap expectations that more troops might be coming, though the administration has not ruled out additional deployments in the future.

"This will not be won by the military alone," Jones said in an interview during his trip. "We tried that for six years." He also said: "The piece of the strategy that has to work in the next year is economic development. If that is not done right, there are not enough troops in the world to succeed."

Jones delivered his message after a 30-minute briefing by Marine Brig. Gen. Lawrence D. Nicholson, who commands 9,000 Marines here, nearly half the new deployments Obama has sent to Afghanistan.

The day before in Kabul, Jones delivered the same message to Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the new overall commander in Afghanistan. McChrystal has undertaken a 60-day review designed to address all the issues in the war.



Jones

In addition, Jones has told Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Adm. Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that they should focus on implementing the current strategy, completing the review and getting more Afghan forces involved in the fight before requesting additional U.S. troops for Afghanistan.

Mullen, however, said on Wednesday that no limits have been placed on the number or types of troops that McChrystal can request after he's completed his assessment.

"There are no preconditions associated with that," Mullen said.

"He's ... been told, 'In this assessment, you come back and ask for what you need.' There are certainly no intended limits with respect to that kind of request."

One senior military officer said privately that the United States would have to deploy a force of more than 100,000 to execute the counterinsurgency strategy of holding areas and towns after



RICARDO MAZALAN/AP

Barbers cut the hair of costumers in Kabul on July 1. National security adviser James L. Jones told U.S. military commanders last week that the Obama administration wants to hold troop levels here flat for now, and focus instead on economic development and Afghan governance.

clearing out the Taliban insurgents. That is at least 32,000 more than the 68,000 currently authorized.

Nicholson and his senior staff sat around a table made of unfinished plywood.

Their headquarters is located in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, 370 miles from the capital, Kabul, in a region known as the "Desert of Death" because of its scorching heat and choking fine, dustlike sand.

The province is facing a rising and lethal Taliban insurgency.

During the briefing, Nicholson told Jones that he was "a little light," more than hinting that he could use more forces.

"We don't have enough force to go everywhere," Nicholson said.

But Jones recalled how Obama had initially decided to deploy additional forces this year.

"At a table much like this," Jones said, referring to the polished wood table in the White House Situation Room, "the president's principals met and agreed to recommend 17,000 more troops for Afghanistan."

The principals — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; Gates; Mullen; and the director of national intelligence, Dennis C. Blair — made this recommendation in February during the first full month of the Obama administration.

The president approved the deployments, which included Nicholson's Marines.

Soon after that, Jones said, the principals told the president, "oops," we need an additional 4,000 to help train the Afghan army.

"They then said, 'If you do all that, we think we can turn this

around,'" Jones said, reminding the Marines here that the president had quickly approved and publicly announced the additional 4,000.

Now suppose you're the president, Jones told them, and the requests come into the White House for yet more force. How do you think Obama might look at this? Jones asked, casting his eyes around the colonels. How do you think he might feel?

Nicholson and the colonels said nothing.

Well, Jones went on, after all those additional troops, 17,000 plus 4,000 more, if there were new requests for force now, the president would quite likely have "a Whiskey Tango Foxtrot moment."

Everyone in the room caught the phonetic reference to 'WTF' — which in the military and elsewhere means "What the [expletive]?"

Nicholson and his colonels — all or nearly all veterans of Iraq — seemed to blanch at the unambiguous message that this might be all the troops they were going to get.

A question not settled

Obama sent Jones last week to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India to make an assessment and explain the president's thinking.

As a presidential candidate and as president, Obama stressed that the Afghan war was neglected in the Bush administration. In announcing the first additional 17,000 troops on Feb. 17, Obama said that "the Taliban is resurgent in Afghanistan" and that al-Qaeda "threatens America from its safe haven" in neighboring Pakistan.

"We don't need more U.S. forces," Nicholson finally told Jones. "We need more Afghan forces."

It is a complaint Jones heard repeatedly. Jones and other officials said Afghanistan, and particularly its president, Hamid Karzai, have not mobilized sufficiently for their own war. Karzai has said Afghanistan is making a major effort in the war and is increasing its own forces as fast as possible.

In an interview, Nicholson said that in the six months he has been building Camp Leatherneck and brought 9,000 Marines to the base, not a single additional member of the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) has been assigned to assist him.

Hesaid he needed "Afghanistan security forces — all flavors," including soldiers, police, border patrol and other specialists.

The evening before the Jones meeting, a Marine was killed during a patrol in Now Zad, a town in Helmand where people had fled the fighting.

"If we had several ANA in Now Zad, we might not have lost that Marine," said one civilian official, noting that the Afghan army could supply the "eyes and ears"

that were badly needed to sound warnings and scout on patrols. One senior U.S. diplomat in Afghanistan estimated that the military needs one member of the Afghan security forces for every 10 U.S. troops to operate safely and stabilize the area. That would mean Nicholson should have approximately 900 Afghans, and he effectively has none.

At the briefing for Jones, Nicholson pointed to the mission statement, which said that "killing the enemy is secondary." His campaign plan states, "Protect the populace by, with and through the ANSF," the Afghanistan National Security Forces, which makes the absence of the additional Afghans particularly galling to Nicholson.

Though the United States supplies most of the funding for the Afghan army, the force is controlled by the Defense Ministry. Jones said he would press Karzai and others to deploy more of the Afghan soldiers to work here in Helmand.

'The razor's edge'

Jones said repeatedly on this trip that the new strategy has three legs, all of which he said had to be dramatically improved: security; economic development and reconstruction; and governance by the Afghans under the rule of law.

"The president realizes it's on the razor's edge," Jones said, suggesting not only a difficult, dangerous time but also a situation that could cut either way. "And he's worried that others don't."

The National Security Council is developing a series of measurements to assess the effectiveness of the strategy and the capability of the Afghan government and Afghan security forces. This is expected to be presented to Congress soon.

Jones made it clear in his visit to Afghanistan that it is a new era and that Obama will not automatically give the military commanders whatever force levels they request — the frequent practice of President George W. Bush in the Iraq war.

"This is a decisive moment," Jones told U.S. military leaders, diplomats and the presidents of Afghanistan and Pakistan, "a strategic moment, and we better get it right."

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FBI files: Saddam feared Iran more than U.S.

BY PAMELA HESS
The Associated Press

The farm where Saddam Hussein hid from U.S. forces before he was captured in December 2003 was familiar ground for the Iraqi dictator: It was the same place, he told an FBI agent, where he sought refuge 44 years earlier after taking part in a failed attempt to kill Iraq's president.

Saddam also told the U.S. official that he had used telephones only twice in the last 14 years, and moved his locations daily. With troops closing in on him, Saddam returned to the farm outside Tikrit where he hid in 1959 after joining in a failed bid to assassinate Iraqi president Abd Al-Karim Qassem.

Those details are among more than 100 pages of notes written by George Piro, an FBI special agent who interviewed Saddam after he was nabbed at the farm. The notes

of the FBI interviews were made public by the National Security Archive, a non-governmental research institute.

Saddam told Piro that instead of relying on phones, he communicated by courier or met with his officials personally. "He was very aware of the United States' significant technological capabilities," the agent wrote in notes after one interview.

The former Iraqi dictator was captured nine months after the U.S. and its allies invaded Iraq in March 2003. Saddam was executed by hanging on orders of Iraq's successor government in

December 2006.

In a series of interviews between February and June of 2004, Saddam also told Piro that he falsely allowed the world to believe Iraq had weapons of mass destruction because he feared revealing his weakness to Iran, the hostile neighbor he considered a bigger threat than the U.S.

Saddam denied having unconventional weapons before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, but refused to allow U.N. inspectors to search his country from 1998 until 2002. The inspectors returned to the weapons hunt in November 2002, but still complained that Iraq wasn't

cooperating.

"By God if I had such weapons I would have used them in the fight against the United States," he told Piro.

Former President George W. Bush justified the invasion of Iraq in large part on the assertion Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and could provide them to terrorists. Saddam had used chemical weapons previously and the Bush administration maintained that he was pursuing biological and nuclear weapons. No such weapons were found after the war.

In the interviews, Saddam dismissed Osama bin Laden as a "zealot," said he had never personally met the al-Qaeda leader and that the Iraqi government didn't cooperate with the terrorist group against the United States.

The institute obtained the FBI summaries through a Freedom of Information Act request

and posted them on its Web site Wednesday. The New York Daily also wrote about the Hussein files last week after similarly obtaining summaries of the interviews through a FOIA request.

Saddam also stated that the United States used the Sept. 11 terrorist attack as a justification to attack Iraq and said the U.S. had "lost sight of the cause of 9/11." He claimed that he denounced the attack in a series of editorials.

Piro earlier had described their talks in an interview with CBS's "60 Minutes" last year. Saddam told him he had "miscalculated" former President George W. Bush's intentions and expected only a limited U.S. attack.

"Hussein stated Iraq could have absorbed another United States strike, for he viewed this as less of a threat than exposing themselves to Iran," according to a June 11, 2004, FBI interview report.

Biden visits Baghdad as bombings kill at least 3

BY PATRICK QUINN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Iraq on Thursday to visit U.S. soldiers, just two days after all American combat troops withdrew from Baghdad and all of Iraq's cities and towns.

During his visit, Biden will meet with Iraqi leaders, including President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

A White House statement said Biden will reiterate the U.S. commitment to carry out President Barack Obama's plan to withdraw combat forces. He also will press Iraqi leaders to make more progress toward political reconciliation. It was his first trip to Iraq as vice president.

Biden Al-Maliki named the day U.S. combat troops withdrew, June 30, as "National Sovereignty Day" and declared it a public holiday.

On that same day, the White House said that Biden will oversee the administration's Iraq policy and work with its government to overcome their political differences and achieve reconciliation.

In Washington, Obama said about Iraq that he has always reserved the right to adjust the U.S. troop withdrawal timetable in Iraq based on changing circumstances. But he said he was confident the U.S. will be able to abide by agreements it made with Iraqis.

In a White House interview, Obama also said he believes Iraqis do not want to return to spiraling violence of past years but added that he has not seen sufficient reconciliation among Iraq's political factions.

He also praised U.S. commanders for handing over security to Iraqis in cities and urban areas this week.

Biden arrived as violence flared for another day in the Iraqi capital, with bombings killing at least three people in the Baghdad area in the first significant violence since Iraqi forces assumed responsibility for securing cities after the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from urban areas earlier



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Iraqi security forces patrol the site of a roadside bombing in Baghdad's Karrada neighborhood on Thursday. The attack was the first in Baghdad since U.S. troops withdrew from Iraqi cities in a step toward winding down the American war effort by the end of 2011.

this week.

A car bomb near the northern city of Kirkuk also killed one man and wounded another six others, police said.

In Baghdad, the violence began when a roadside bomb struck an Iraqi army patrol, killing an Iraqi soldier and wounding seven other people, police and hospital officials said.

The attack occurred near a bridge that controls access to the walled-off Green Zone in central Baghdad.

A car bomb later exploded near a market on the highway south of Baghdad, killing at least two people and wounding 15,

according to a police officer at the regional command.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

On Tuesday a car bomb killed more than 30 people in the northern city of Kirkuk.

But Thursday's bombings were the first deadly attacks recorded in Baghdad after the Iraqis officially assumed responsibility for securing the cities and most of the 130,000 American troops in Iraq pulled back from urban areas to large bases on the outskirts.

Persistent violence has raised concerns

about the readiness of Iraqi forces to take over their own security.

At least 447 Iraqi civilians were killed in June, double the toll from the previous month, according to an Associated Press tally.

Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mohammed al-Askari insisted his forces were on track in protecting the Iraqi people.

"The first phase of implementing the American forces withdrawal agreement has ended peacefully and successfully without any problems," he said at a news conference.

U.S. soldier believed to be captured by Taliban

By DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

KHOST, Afghanistan — U.S. forces in eastern Afghanistan are conducting an intense search for a soldier who wandered off his post and is now presumed captured by the Taliban, a spokeswoman for U.S. Forces Afghanistan confirmed Thursday.

For reasons not disclosed, the soldier walked away from his unit on Tuesday, and the military has information from local Afghans that he was captured, said Capt. Elizabeth Mathias.

"We have basically been trying to find him in every way possible," Mathias told Stars and Stripes.

Col. Greg Julian, the chief spokesman for U.S. Forces Afghanistan, said the soldier was captured in the Paktika province, where he was deployed in a small outpost. He said an investigation was under way to determine what led to the soldier's disappearance on Tuesday.

Julian said there has not yet been any

direct communication with the kidnappers, but U.S. forces had reason to believe the soldier was still alive. He would not elaborate.

The Department of Defense has yet to release the soldier's identity, but his family has already been notified and his identity was likely to be released later on Thursday, Julian said. Among the units deployed to help search for the missing soldier was a unit from Camp Clark in Khost province, just north of Paktika, where the search is under way.

U.S. forces from the region have been diverted to the area where the soldier went missing. The region borders the South Waziristan tribal areas.

Maj. Jose Aymat, the executive officer at Camp Clark, said reports from Paktika indicate that the soldier was captured by two individuals in a four-wheel-drive vehicle. He said battalions deployed across eastern Afghanistan have each committed one or two platoons to join the search effort and they have cordoned off the area where

they think the soldier is being held.

"All the roads [in and out of the area] are pretty much under the control of U.S. forces and the ANA (Afghan National Army)," Aymat said. "All activities in the region other than force protection have ceased because the effort now is to find our soldier." Information heard over radio communications indicate that the Taliban is considering whether to negotiate a deal or ransom in exchange for the soldier's release, Aymat said.

At Clark, there was a sense of frustration at the situation created by the soldier's capture. Many questioned why the soldier's leadership was not aware of the possibility that he was in distress.

Other soldiers said they were concerned that the concerted effort to find the soldier was putting so many forces at risk, while leaving other areas with less forces to carry out their own missions.

By midday Thursday, CBS News posted a story on its Web site saying a Taliban commander had called one of their reporters to claim they were holding the soldier,

along with three Afghans, near the Pakistani border. The Taliban commander, who spoke to CBS by satellite telephone, said the soldier's fate would be decided by Taliban leaders, but that the militant group "would not mind an exchange of prisoners in this case," CBS reported.

The last high-profile incidence of a servicemember going missing in Afghanistan was under much different circumstances.

In June 2005, a SEAL team tracking a high-ranking Taliban commander was ambushed in eastern Afghanistan.

Three of the team members were killed in the initial battle, but a fourth, Marcus Luttrell, was able to walk and crawl seven miles after being badly wounded to avoid capture. He was given shelter in a village and was eventually rescued by U.S. forces six days after the original battle. At the time, the U.S. military for several days listed all four members of the SEAL team as missing, until details of the fight and confirmation of the deaths were later released.

E-mail Dianna Cahn at: cahnd@estripes.osd.mil

Economic initiative could be Iraq reconstruction case study

By TERI WEAVER
Stars and Stripes

SAAB AL BOR, Iraq — Last week, a woman was putting out bunches of greens at the produce and meat market in this small town near Baghdad. They cost her customers about 25 cents a bunch.

Two years ago, her livelihood cost her shrapnel wounds that left scars on her leg, arms and neck.

Violence between Sunnis and Shiites once overwhelmed residents in Saab al Bor, which lies along the country's major highway that runs west to Syria. By the spring of 2007, most of the town's 40,000 residents had fled.

Three things happened to lure people back home last year: The U.S. military hired many of those causing the violence and made them members of the "Sons of Iraq." Those members in turn helped the military find some of the insurgents behind the continuing violence. And the U.S. dumped a load of money into the town.

The cash came from the Commanders Emergency Response Program, which began shortly after the March 2003 invasion as a way to help Iraqis clean and secure their neighborhoods — and buy some goodwill. U.S. commanders began referring to CERP as their "walking-around money" — an officer could walk through a town, see a problem, and within a few weeks put money toward fixing it. In Saab al Bor, the cash was used to create jobs, clean up rubble and make the local water drinkable.

Now, as the U.S. military presence in Iraq begins to steadily diminish, the CERP money will begin to recede as well.

"As troop numbers go down, the CERP money will go down. CERP is a commander's program," said Lt. Col. Simon Gardner, whose office oversees CERP spending for Multi-National Division-Baghdad. To spend the funds, he said, "you have to have commanders."

The turnaround in Saab al Bor



First Lt. Mike Tier, with Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment, stops often at this bakery in Saab al Bor. Last Thursday, he offered to help make the bread. The baker left the town in 2007 for Syria; the store reopened last November. This spring, Tier helped the baker get a \$2,100 microgrant to expand his business into cakes.

TERI WEAVER
Stars and Stripes

has become a case study of the effectiveness of the CERP program; it's part of the curriculum at the U.S. Army and Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., officials say.

As of June, the town's population had surged to about 50,000 people, with about 30 to 40 families moving back home each week. Violence is almost nil, according to Capt. Owen Adams, who commands Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment.

The troop moved into the town in February and was hit twice in March with roadside bombs and small-arms fire that caused no serious injuries, Adams said. Since then, things have been very quiet.

Yet the successes in Saab al Bor have brought other problems, said 1st Lt. Matt Swartzell of Troop B. CERP projects were meant to provide a temporary fix to problems until the Iraqi government could take over, but in many cases that takeover has yet to happen.

The town lacks enough trained garbage truck drivers to empty trash bins. Septic tanks have not been emptied in three years. The town has no 24-hour clinic and the ambulances that run will deliver patients to Baghdad but won't pick

them up at their homes.

Worst of all, the water is now polluted again and making people ill.

A couple of years ago, the U.S. military spent about \$8 million in CERP money to treat the water in the larger area of Taji, which includes Saab al Bor, according to Maj. Guy Smith, also with the 2nd Squadron. The money put water treatment systems in place, but left no budget for operation and maintenance.

As time passed, saline in the water ate through the treatment system's pipes. Local water authorities sold off chlorine treatment for the system on the black market, Smith and others said.

Smith and Adams are trying to work a second round of fixes, but under new rules put in place to improve the CERP program, they must have an agreement with the Iraqi Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works to take over the maintenance costs once repairs are made. In the meantime, Smith is working on getting approval to bring water trucks to the area.

In the Baghdad area, CERP has pushed more than \$14 million in microgrants to merchants and farmers in the past nine months. In the same period, military units

there committed \$117 million toward larger projects ranging from securing Iraqi government buildings to irrigating fields to treating water to improving electrical service.

They now have another three months — until Sept. 30 — to commit another \$151 million to improving infrastructure and businesses around the capital before the new U.S. budget cycle begins.

"We want to spend it to create effects smartly," said Gardner.

That hasn't always been the case.

CERP has come under criticism by Iraqis for spending money without regard to local priorities.

And there has been some corruption: In one extreme case, a U.S. Army captain was indicted earlier this year for taking \$690,000 from the program, the Los Angeles Times reported in April.

First Lt. Young Ethridge, a Pennsylvania Army National Guardsman with the 2nd Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment, has taped that newspaper story next to his desk. Ethridge's job is to review a project as it progresses and to facilitate final payments to contractors. As a trained project purchasing officer for the Army, he can be held liable for his decisions.

Now, officers like Ethridge can only work on 12 projects at a time, one of the new rules put in place to improve the program, officers said.

Another change involves obtaining endorsement from Iraqi officials for reconstruction projects, according to Lt. Col. Maria Zumwalt, whose job includes overseeing CERP for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in northeastern Baghdad and nearby suburbs.

Projects like hospital, school or utility renovations require a letter from an Iraqi official supporting the project.

The letter also states the Iraqi agency will start upkeep and salary payments at the improved site after the military's investment, Zumwalt said.

E-mail Teri Weaver at: weavert@pstripes.osd.mil

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Tobacco tax affecting AAFES, NEX prices

By SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Prices on cigarettes are increasing, in some cases by as much as \$1.60 a pack, at military bases throughout the world due to a hefty tax increase on tobacco products sold in the United States.

Even though the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Navy Exchange provide tax-free goods, the Defense Department mandates that military outlets keep prices within range of the market value for tobacco and alcohol sold in the States, an AAFES official said Wednesday.

The DOD instruction mandates prices for tobacco sold at military exchanges in the States be set at 5 percent below the lowest civilian competitor price. Overseas, prices must be "within range" of state-

side prices, and are set using the average price for items sold at stateside exchanges, AAFES spokesman Judd Anstey said.

"It's not a choice by AAFES, it's a requirement. I think that is very important to note," Anstey said.

On April 1, U.S. federal cigarette taxes increased from 39 cents to \$1 per pack. That and other adjustments to state taxes on tobacco products translate into higher prices for cigarettes and tobacco products at military exchanges worldwide, he said.

Prices at AAFES jumped July 1.

Prices are to increase at Navy Exchange outlets in Europe on Aug. 1. Some exchanges, however, have already increased prices.

In 2008, AAFES tobacco sales totaled \$504 million worldwide, Anstey said. The Navy Exchange sold \$123.3 million worth of tobacco products, including cigarettes,

cigars and smokeless tobacco in its past fiscal year. That was up 1.6 percent from fiscal 2007 figures, Navy Exchange Command spokesman Philip Garcia said.

But price increases at the Navy Exchange aren't uniform.

On June 23, for example, the price of a pack of Marlboro Lights and Marlboros at the mini-mart at Capodichino base in Italy increased from \$3.85 to \$4.50, but Marlboro Ultra Lights stayed the same price.

By Aug. 4, Navy Exchanges in Europe will increase cigarette prices on all brands except Merits, Garcia said.

He could not explain the inconsistent increases or provide information about possible increases at outlets in the Middle East or the Pacific.

One customer said the price hike may help him kick the habit.

"Quitting smoking is a goal of mine, so the price increase is one more incentive to consider in giving it up," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Campbell, who has been smoking since he was 18. He's now 26.

Since military outlets are exempt from paying taxes, they'll rake in more revenue from the price increases. Anstey said the additional revenue will be reflected in the amount of money that goes into funding Morale Welfare and Recreation programs.

More than 30 percent of servicemembers smoke or use tobacco, nearly twice the smoking rate of the civilian population, according to the independent Institute of Medicine study, solicited by the Defense Department and Veterans Affairs.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@estripes.osd.mil

Internet restrictions hinder some criminal investigations

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Restrictions on Web access through Department of Defense computers prevent some military police and Criminal Investigation Command investigators from accessing sites relevant to their cases.

During a recent Article 32 hearing in Vilseck, Germany, involving a male soldier allegedly sexually assaulted by another male soldier, a CID investigator testified he wasn't permitted to visit a popular social networking Web site on a Defense Department computer.

Defense attorneys were trying to prove that the soldier's MySpace page depicted homosexual behavior, and, thus, the sex was consensual.

CID special agent Shawn Burke, a lead investigator in the case, testified that he was unaware of the MySpace page because of the DOD regulations.

Asked by a defense lawyer if he'd seen the images, easily found by searching the Web under the alleged victim's name, Burke replied: "DOD forbids us from searching MySpace, and I will not use my personal computer for a criminal investigation."

Others services, including the Navy and some Army military police investigators, however, have either worked around the restrictions by installing commercial Internet service for work on certain cases, or by using their personal computers at home.

Air Force Office of Special Investigations officials declined to discuss how their Internet investigations work, but indicated that they have caught criminals during online investigations.

Last month, Army officials ordered network managers at 81 U.S. locations to unblock Web sites such as Facebook, Flickr and Twitter as part of an effort to standardize access to the popular social networking tools. The order has no effect on overseas bases; guidance there will come from local signal commands, Army officials said recently.

Rhonda Bye, a military police

Blocking investigations

DOD regulations still restrict most social networking sites on overseas military bases. Local signal commands have the power to unblock the sites, but many have not acted. Some CID investigations have been hindered in key cases because of those restrictions on the following sites:



investigator in Grafenwöhr, Germany, said MPs face the same DOD computer restrictions as CID, so investigators in her office use their home computers, in their spare time, to track some online information.

Bye said plans for a non-DOD computer network in her office that would allow military police to access off-limits Web sites were discussed but have not yet been implemented.

Yet, Web sites such as YouTube, MySpace and Facebook are key investigation tools, she said, noting that soldiers sometimes post evidence of gang affiliation or other illegal activity.

In one high-profile case elsewhere in the military, Marine Lance Cpl. David Motari was thrown out of the military last year after he was seen in a YouTube video throwing a puppy off a cliff while on patrol in Iraq.

And in 2007, Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron F. Wilson received three months in jail and a bad-conduct discharge after he posted a video of himself throwing a frog into a running F-16 engine at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service uses non-Department of the Navy computer networks to get around the Internet restrictions, according to Rodney Bush, NCIS deputy assistant director for cyber operations and investigations.

"NCIS does not use [Navy] networks or Internet connectivity for investigative activity that could be potentially harmful to Navy and Marine Corps networks," he said.

"The majority of NCIS field offices around the globe have obtained commercial Internet connectivity for this purpose."

"This connectivity provides our agents the ability to review areas of the Internet not authorized given the cyberspace security posture the [Navy] has established and it minimizes the risk of harming [Navy] networks," he said.

The growing importance of the Internet in crime fighting is also acknowledged by the FBI.

FBI public affairs officer Paul Bresson said new agents receive training in the use of public information sources, such as the Internet, and agents get more specialized training once they are placed in a field office assignment.

"The Internet is often thought of as a means for criminals to facilitate their criminal activity in anonymity," he said. "However, technology is neutral and law enforcement is not always hindered by its sophistication. In fact ... it can often supply investigators with relative information that may not have been available otherwise."

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsons@estripes.osd.mil

Funeral home denies mishandling bodies

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — A funeral home accused of mishandling bodies awaiting burial at Arlington National Cemetery says an internal review found no evidence of wrongdoing.

Attorneys for National Funeral Home wrote to a regulatory board that the home has not violated any laws or standards.

The home serves as a regional embalming and storage facility for Houston-based Service Corporation International.

From The Associated Press

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IN THE WORLD



OTAVIO DE SOUZA/AP

Navy officers on the Brazilian frigate Bosisio hold a wreath that was thrown into the sea in memory of the victims of the Air France Flight 447 on Monday. Brazilian and French searchers have recovered large chunks of debris and 51 bodies from the airplane, which disappeared with 228 people on board May 31.

French: Intact Flight 447 hit sea belly first

BY GREG KELLER
AND EMMA VANDORE
The Associated Press

LE BOURGET, France — Air France Flight 447 slammed into the Atlantic Ocean, intact and belly first, at such a high speed that the 228 people aboard probably had no time to even inflate their life jackets, French investigators said Thursday in their first report into the June 1 accident.

Likening the investigation to a puzzle with missing pieces, lead investigator Alain Bouillard said that one month after the crash, "we are very far from establishing the causes of the accident."

Problems speed sensors on the Airbus A330-200 jet that have been the focus of intense speculation since the crash may have misled the plane's pilots but were not a direct cause, Bouillard said.

The plane was flying from Rio de Janeiro to Paris when it went down in a remote area of the Atlantic, 930 miles off Brazil and far from radar coverage.

The French agency BEA released its first preliminary



Bouillard

findings on the crash Thursday, calling it one of history's most challenging plane crash investigations.

The speed sensors, called Pitot tubes, are "a factor but not the only one," Bouillard told a news conference in Le Bourget outside Paris.

Other elements that came under scrutiny in the immediate aftermath of the crash, such as the possibility that heavy storms or lightning may have brought down the jet, were also downplayed in the BEA's presentation.

Meteorological data show the presence of storm clouds in the area the jet would have flown through, but nothing out of the ordinary for the equatorial region in June, Bouillard said, eliminating the theory that the plane could have encountered a storm of unprecedented power. Other flights through the area shortly after Flight 447 disappeared didn't report unusual weather, Bouillard said.

"Between the surface of the water and 35,000 feet, we don't know what happened," Bouillard admitted.

"In the absence of the flight recorders, it is extremely difficult to draw conclusions."

A burst of automated messages emitted by the plane before it fell gave rescuers only a vague location to begin their search, which has failed to locate the plane's black boxes in the vast ocean expanse.

EU mulls pulling ambassadors from Iran

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — The European Union on Thursday was considering Britain's request to pull the bloc's ambassadors from Iran, an extraordinary move that would send a powerful signal of EU unity in the wake of Tehran's postelection crackdown.

Some EU countries worry that pulling the bloc's ambassadors from Tehran would only serve to isolate the Iranian regime, cutting it off completely from outside influence.

The issue was expected to be given high priority in a two-day meeting of EU foreign policy directors starting Thursday in Stockholm.

The detentions of local personnel at the British Embassy last week cranked up Iran's standoff with

the West. Iranian state TV on Wednesday said Tehran released all but one of the employees.

Both Britain and the EU condemned the detentions as "harassment and intimidation."

Iran accuses Europe of supporting anti-government rallies. The EU "has totally lost the competence and qualifications needed for holding any kind of talks with Iran," Iran's chief of staff, Gen. Hasan Firouzabadi, was quoted as saying by the semiofficial Fars News Agency.

Political analysts said recalling ambassadors from Iran would send a strong message of EU unity. "I think the symbolic signal cannot be underestimated," said Shannon Kile, a senior researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Rare copy of Declaration of Independence found

LONDON — A rare copy of the American Declaration of Independence has been found in a file at the British National Archives.

The Archives said the print, known as the Dunlap print after the printer who commissioned it, is the 26th copy of the document to be found.

The last Dunlap print found was sold at an auction for \$8.14 million in 2000.

Archives spokeswoman Katrina McClintock said Thursday that a researcher discovered the print months ago while looking through late 18th century files for something unrelated.

Landslides in Nepal kill at least 12 people

KATMANDU, Nepal — Landslides triggered by monsoon rains swept through three villages in

Nepal's mountainous west Thursday, burying homes and killing at least nine people, a ministry official said.

A landslide Wednesday in a village in Mugu, about 250 miles northwest of Katmandu, also killed three boys.

The landslide deaths were the first reported since the beginning of the monsoon season this week. Hundreds of such fatalities are reported each year during the rainy season.

U.S. ambassador returns to Venezuela after spat

CARACAS, Venezuela — The U.S. ambassador to Venezuela has returned to his post — more than nine months after he was expelled by President Hugo Chavez.

Patrick Duddy said Wednesday he hopes his return will be "the first step toward more productive relations."

In September, Chavez expelled Duddy in solidarity with Bolivia's

president, who had kicked out the top U.S. diplomat on accusations of inciting violence.

Washington denied the charges and responded by expelling both countries' envoys.

New leader of Taiwan's de facto embassy named

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The United States on Thursday named a career diplomat with wide-ranging experience in East Asia to be the new head of its de facto embassy in Taiwan.

The American Institute in Taiwan said William Stanton, currently the No. 2 U.S. diplomat in South Korea, will replace outgoing institute head Stephen Young in August.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said it welcomed the appointment.

From The Associated Press



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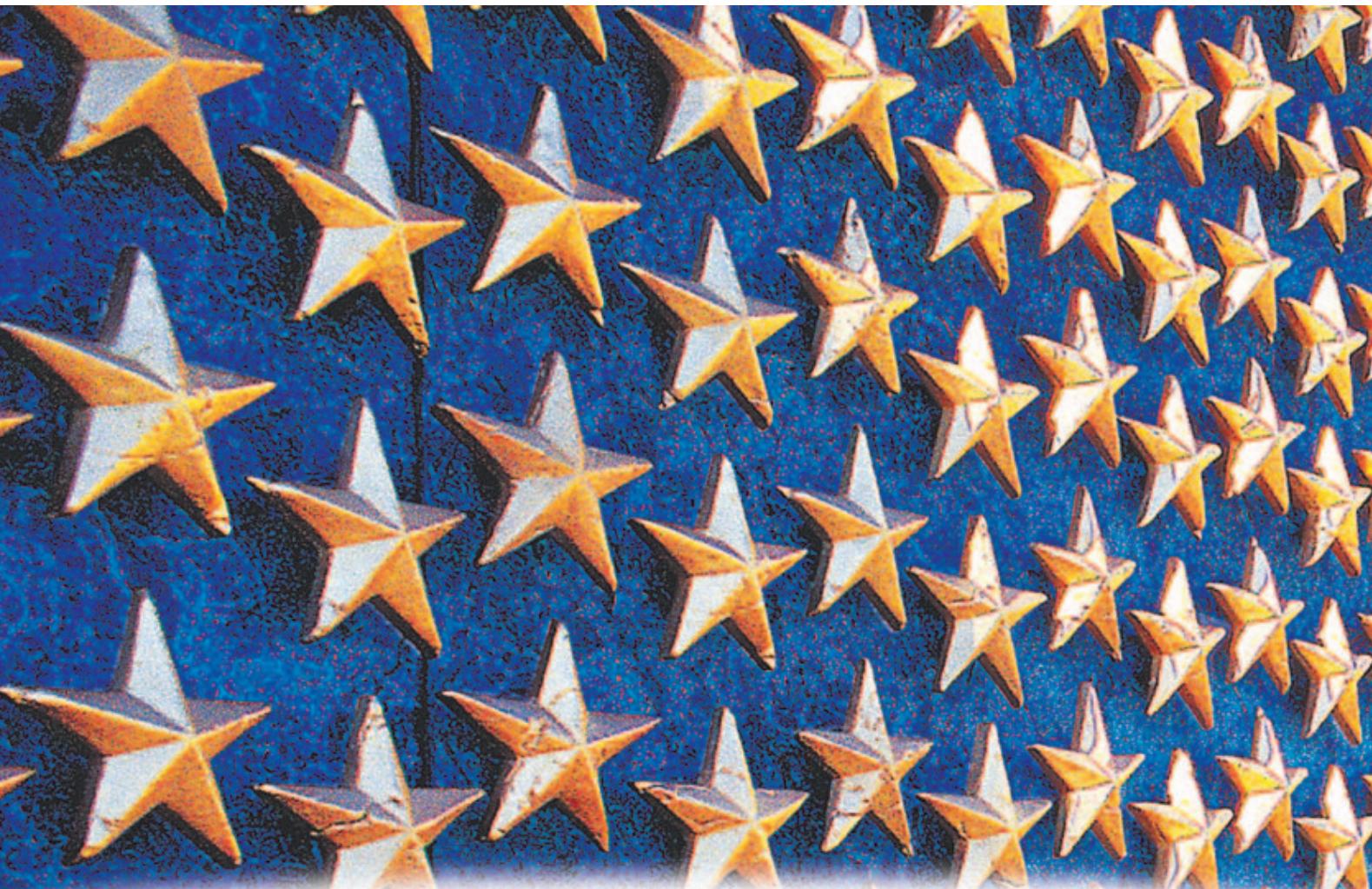
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African leaders mull rebuffing ICC over Sudan

By ALFRED DE MONTESQUIOU
The Associated Press

SIRTE, Libya — African heads of state on Thursday discussed a drastic new decision against the International Criminal Court that would in practice give Sudan's president impunity from prosecution for war crimes by the ICC, a draft document at the AU summit showed.

African officials said the surprise new draft was circulated by Libya, which is hosting the 13th African Union summit in the



al-Bashir

coastal town of Sirte, east of the capital, Tripoli.

The draft says the African Union "deeply regrets" that the United Nations ignored its previous demand for the ICC in The Hague to postpone its arrest warrant against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for crimes in Darfur.

In consequence, the draft decision obtained by The AP provides that AU countries "shall not cooperate" with the ICC "for

the arrest and surrender of African indicted personalities."

If adopted, the decision could be a powerful blow to prosecuting African officials for war crimes.

Reed Brody, a spokesman for Human Rights Watch, said African signatories to the court refused a similar decision in June, but that Libya appeared to be pushing for it to be adopted.

Heads of states convened at AU summits reach their decision behind closed doors and by con-

sensus, not vote, and it was not clear if the new measure would be approved Thursday.

"The question is whether Libya will be heavy handed" in pushing the decision through, Brody said on the sidelines of the summit.

Libya was one of the first countries to ignore the ICC and host al-Bashir despite the international warrant against him issued in March.

Al-Bashir is accused by the

ICC prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity for masterminding Sudanese government violence that has led to the death of some 300,000 people in Darfur since 2003.

Sudan's acting Foreign Minister, El Samany El Wasila, hailed the new draft AU decision Thursday.

"I think it will be adopted, it will be Africa's confirmation that the ICC is politically motivated and should be ignored," he said.

Court strikes down ban on gay sex in New Delhi

By MUNEEZA NAQVI
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — A court ruled Thursday to decriminalize homosexuality in the Indian capital, a groundbreaking decision that could bring more freedom to gays in this deeply conservative country.

The Delhi High Court ruled that treating consensual gay sex as a crime is a violation of fundamental rights protected by India's constitution.

The ruling, the first of its kind in India, applies only in New Delhi.

"I'm so excited, and I haven't been able to process the news yet," said Anjali Gopalan, the executive director of the Naz Foundation (India) Trust, a sexual health organization that had filed the petition. "We've finally entered the 21st century."

But some religious leaders quickly criticized the ruling.

"This Western culture cannot be permitted in our country," said Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahali, a leading Muslim cleric in the northern city of Lucknow.

The court's verdict came more than eight years after the New Delhi-based foundation filed its petition — not unusually long in India's notoriously clogged court system.

The verdict can be challenged in India's Supreme Court.

Sex between people of the same gender has been illegal in India since a British colonial era law that classified it as "against the order of nature."

According to the law, gay sex is punishable by 10 years in prison.

The law itself can only be amended by India's Parliament and gay rights activists have long campaigned for it to be changed.

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From smoke rings to wedding rings

BY DONNA ABU-NASR
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The catchy slogan, "Kicking the habit is on you, and marriage is on us," is meant to entice young grooms to give up smoking by offering an attractive incentive.

And, indeed, hundreds have expressed interest in the first anti-smoking drive of its kind in the kingdom, with one man saying he is ready to take up smoking just to be eligible for the grand prize — an all-expenses-paid wedding.

In much of the Arab world, the groom alone bears the cost of getting married, including an expensive party, a dowry and a fully furnished house. Men often put off marriage until they've saved enough money to take a bride.

Several commentators have complained that the campaign is turning women into a commodity, but organizers have taken the criticism in stride, saying they're thrilled to get people talking about the dangers of smoking. About one quarter of Saudi Arabia's 27.6 million residents indulge.

Since June 20, banners have gone up on overpasses and bridges over the Saudi capital's major highways, depicting the

campaign slogan in pink and reddish brown. Next to it are the faceless outlines of a bride, dressed in white and carrying a bouquet of flowers, and of a man wearing a black, ceremonial cloak over his white robe, the traditional robe Saudi men wear.

The anti-smoking campaign is also being advertised in malls, at universities and in magazines.

The organizer, a local charity called Purity, stipulates that the marriage is the man's first and that he has a recent marriage contract. In Islam, the contract is usually signed before a couple moves in together.

A draw on Aug. 6 will include the names of the men who successfully quit smoking in a weeklong course. The winner will have all wedding expenses paid while 20 runners-up will get free furniture.

Sulaiman al-Soby, secretary-general of Purity, said the aim is to create a smoke-free family. One-third of Saudi schoolchildren live in homes with smokers, according to a 2007 health survey.

Al-Soby said he expects thousands to take part in the campaign, which only



covers the capital, Riyadh, a metropolis of 5 million.

Ali al-Abdullah, originally from Yemen, said he wouldn't have attempted to quit without the new incentive. The 22-year-old, who is engaged to his cousin, smokes a pack-and-a-half a day, "two when I have problems."

Salem al-Majdali, a spokesman for the charity, said hundreds of men have already applied or called to get more information.

One was the nonsmoker who wanted to take up smoking.

Another wanted to know if the charity also provides the bride. "Do we get to choose from a bride lineup?" al-Majdali said, quoting the caller.

Across the Arab world, economic barriers to getting married have prompted charities to jump in. From Gaza to Syria, Islamic groups have arranged mass weddings, to cut down on costs.

In Egypt, an Islamic charity affiliated with the ruling party and a pro-government newspaper have provided furniture and appliances to young couples, in addition,

to collective parties.

In Saudi Arabia, the anti-smoking drive has attracted criticism.

Some have rejected the link between smoking and what they consider a holy union. Others wanted to know how Purity could start the campaign without the religious blessings of clerics.

Columnist Maha al-Hujailan said the concept is sexist.

"The campaign stems from an idea directed at male smokers: 'Give up having fun with a cigarette and take a woman instead,'" she wrote in the Al-Watan newspaper Sunday.

Another commentator, Suzan al-Mashhad, noted that Arabs have criticized the West for using women to promote merchandise. "Today, we're using ... the same two-in-one method adopted by a hair product that promises to clean the hair and condition it at the same time," she wrote in the Al-Hayat newspaper.

Al-Majdali said many have misunderstood the slogan.

"Did we say we're offering a woman?" he said.

"In any case, the fact that people are discussing the campaign means we have fulfilled our goal of spreading the word about it," he added.

India development leaves farmers wealthy, but dirt-poor

BY SAM DOLNICK
The Associated Press

MUNIMPUR, India — For generations, the men of Munimpur worked their sun-baked wheat fields, rising before dawn to till the same soil their grandfathers plowed.

That was when the land was made of dirt, not money.

In recent years, tens of thousands of villagers across the country sold their fields to industrialists and developers building malls, suburbs and factories for the new India. The farmers became rich overnight, and the prosperity reshaped villages like Munimpur, a dirt-laned hamlet on the fringes of New Delhi that is now crowded with satellite dishes, expensive cars and grand homes.

But the new wealth has ruptured the age-old relationship that the farmers had with the soil. It has led to a string of crimes — murder, theft, assault — and troubles from property disputes to depression. Like lottery winners battered by their windfall, families that worked together for generations have been cleaved apart, upending life in a traditional land.

"Earlier, land was a way of life," said Saurabh Singh, a senior police official in Haryana district in Haryana state. "Now it's a commercial thing."

In a country where more than half the population depends on agriculture, land has traditionally been a spiritual link to

past generations and a reliable provision for future ones. As India develops, land has become even more valuable, sparking mass protests and deadly unrest as villagers and industry clash. Disputes have broken out in Orissa and West Bengal in the east and the coastal state of Goa in the west.

With nearly four times the population of the United States crowded onto one-third the space, India's land competition is likely to continue, even amid the global economic slowdown.

The credit turmoil has stalled the phenomenal growth the country had seen in recent years, halting scores of development projects. Reliance Industries, the company that bought the land from the farmers of Munimpur, still plans to develop the site but has yet to begin construction, a spokesman said.

But even if development and economic growth slow in the coming year, as many analysts expect, the new land rush has already struck villagers like Subhram Gulia, a white-haired farmer who said he used to sell milk for \$250 a month before trading his land for \$180,000. Selling out, he argues, has only made life worse.

"I was at peace with myself before. I was earning every day," Gulia said on a recent afternoon in Munimpur, a village of roughly 2,000. "Now, I'm sitting alone, unemployed. There is no peace in my heart."

But it's a complicated nostalgia, tinged with regret over selling the land — and

regret that he didn't sell it for more. Even as Gulia lamented his decision, he eagerly showed a visitor his large television and his air-cooling units, though he swears he bought them before Reliance. He noted that farmers in nearby villages received far more money for their land than he did.

To see how the price of land has sparked new divisions, visit the waiting room outside the once-sleepy Jhajjar courthouse. At a table along the back wall, Harish Harit, 44, discusses the lawsuit against his four brothers who have squeezed him off his ancestral land. At the opposite end of the room, Zile Singh, 75, begins to cry as he asks how he can reclaim the land he says his nephew stole. The lawyers say disputes like these fill their days.

Singh, the police official, said there have been at least 18 land-related murders in Jhajjar district since 2006, and his officers now spend much of their time refereeing land disputes.

One of the most recent murders occurred on March 26 when Nareesh Singh, along with his wife and son, allegedly killed his father for selling soil from land he was to inherit. They also killed Singh's mother when she rushed to her husband's defense, police claim. The three have been arrested and await trial, police said.

Singh said the murders, along with a spate of assaults, are tied directly to the land boom.

"Never before would this have hap-

pened," he said.

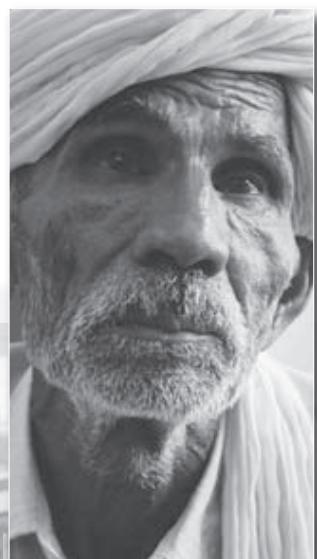
In Munimpur, the Sharmas said they sold their land, just shy of 2 acres, to Reliance for \$85,000. They built a new house, settled old loans — and ran out of money.

"Whatever money has come, we have spent," said Samunder Singh Sharma, 30. "We are now poor again."

Sharma and his brother are back to working as laborers, each earning roughly \$40 a month, but now they have to buy the grain they used to grow themselves.

Below: Zile Singh, an elderly villager, waits to file a case against his nephew, who allegedly stole his land near New Delhi. **Bottom:** Farmers' prosperity from the sale of their land in the region reshaped villages like Munimpur.

PHOTOS BY MANISH SWARUP/AP



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IN THE STATES

Unemployment hits 9.5 percent

Employers cut 467,000 more jobs in June

By JEANNINE AVERSA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Employers cut a larger-than-expected 467,000 jobs in June and the unemployment rate climbed to a 26-year high of 9.5 percent. Workers also saw weekly wages fall, suggesting Americans will have little appetite to spend and the economy's road to recovery will be bumpy.

The Labor Department report, released Thursday, showed that even as the recession flashes signs of easing, companies likely will want to keep a lid on costs and be wary of hiring until they feel certain the economy is on solid ground.

June's payroll reductions were deeper than the 363,000 that economists expected and average weekly earnings dropped to the lowest level in nearly a year.

However, the rise in the unemployment rate from 9.4 percent

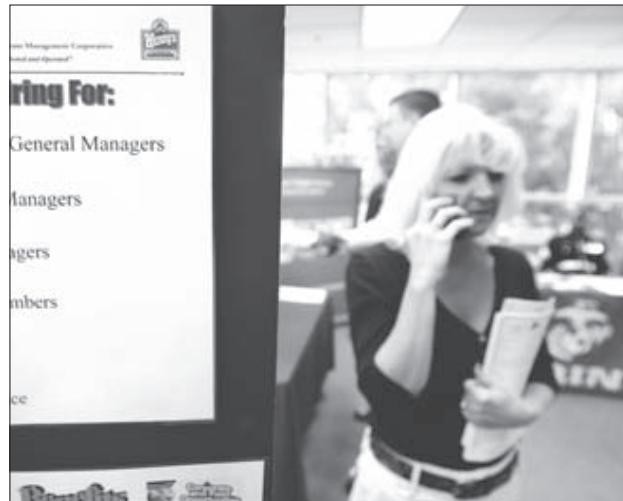
in May wasn't as sharp as the expected 9.6 percent. Still, many economists predict the jobless rate will hit 10 percent this year, and keep rising into next year, before falling back.

All told, 14.7 million people were unemployed in June.

If laid-off workers who have given up looking for new jobs or have settled for part-time work are included, the unemployment rate would have been 16.5 percent in June, the highest on record dating to 1994.

"We were on the road of things getting less bad in the jobs market, and that has been temporarily layed," said economist Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. "But this doesn't change my view that the recession will end later this year. We're probably two months away."

On Wall Street, the employment news pulled stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrials lost about 165 points in midday trad-



PAUL SAKUMA/AP

An unemployed worker attends a job fair in San Jose, Calif. The economy lost 467,000 more jobs in June, driving the United States' unemployment rate up to a 26-year high of 9.5 percent.

ing, and broader indices also fell. Overseas markets dropped after a report showed unemployment in Europe rose to a 10-year high in May.

Since the recession began in December 2007, the economy has lost a net total of 6.5 million jobs.

As the downturn bites into sales and profits, companies have turned to layoffs and other cost-cutting measures to survive.

The average work week in

June fell to 33 hours, the lowest on records dating to 1964.

"We are in some very hard and severe economic times," Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said in an interview. "The president and I are both not happy."

Still, Solis thought it was too early to consider a second government stimulus, saying more time is needed for the current one to take hold. "I do think the public needs to be patient," she said.

Probe finds signals failed prior to D.C. crash

By BRIAN WESTLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Signaling equipment that is supposed to detect stopped trains in Washington, D.C., failed periodically in the days leading up to a deadly Metro transit train crash, federal investigators said Wednesday.

Nine people were killed and more than 70 injured last week when a train slammed into another train stopped on the tracks near the Maryland state line.

The findings by the National Transportation Safety Board are the strongest indication yet that the oncoming train could have lacked information that another train was stopped on the tracks when the June 22 crash occurred.

The signaling problem was first reported by The Frederick News-Post.

The cause of the crash, the deadliest in the system's 33-year history, has not been determined.

Investigators have said there is evidence the operator of the train that was moving, Jeanice McMillan, applied the emergency brake before the crash. Her funeral was held Wednesday in New York.

Metro's signaling system is



DON HEUPEL/AP

Brian Brooks speaks during the memorial service for Jeanice McMillan in Buffalo, N.Y., on Wednesday. The rookie operator of a Washington, D.C., Metro train saved lives by applying an emergency brake moments before a crash that killed her and eight passengers.

supposed to detect passing trains and transmit speed and stop commands. But the NTSB said problems began occurring after a piece of equipment was replaced June 17, five days before the accident.

The equipment, known as an impedance bond, communicates information such as speed and distance between the tracks, trains and operations control center.

Last week, the NTSB said "anomalies" were found on a stretch of track near the crash, and that the signaling system failed during a test after the accident.

Metro General Manager John Catoe said Wednesday the agency replaced the impedance bond before the accident as part of routine maintenance. He said the post-crash review detected problems that previously went unnoticed.

Democrats: Revised plan on health care costs less

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Determined to advance President Barack Obama's health care agenda, key Senate Democrats are calling for a government-run insurance option to compete with private plans, as well as a \$750-per-worker annual fee on larger companies that do not offer coverage to employees.

In a letter outlining the details, Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said their revised plan would cost dramatically less than an earlier, incomplete proposal, and help show the way toward coverage for 97 percent of all Americans.

The two senators said the Congressional Budget Office put the cost of the proposal at \$611.4 billion over 10 years, down from \$1 trillion two weeks ago. The revision also "virtually eliminates" an

earlier forecast that the proposal would cause many companies to drop coverage for their workers, they said.

The total cost of legislation will rise considerably once provisions are added to subsidize health insurance for the poor through Medicaid and physician reimbursement increases under Medicare. Those are under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee, where lawmakers have said they want to hold the overall price tag to \$1 trillion or less.

Kennedy and Dodd wrote members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on Wednesday. They disclosed their plans as Congress neared the end of a July 4 vacation, and with lawmakers expected to turn quickly to health care legislation when they return to the Capitol.

CIA detention, interrogation report delayed

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration says it needs two more months to review an internal CIA report on the agency's secret detention and interrogation program before making it public.

The Justice Department had originally said it intended to release the report in June as part of a lawsuit, but department officials said Thursday they need until the end of August.

Justice Department spokeswoman Tracy Schmaler said the report contains information that overlaps with other CIA documents that they also must review and release by a court-ordered Aug. 31 deadline.

From The Associated Press

Bondholders fight to stall GM asset sale

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An attorney for a trio of bondholders opposed to General Motors' sale plan on Thursday urged a judge to call the government's bluff and require the automaker to restructure itself through a more traditional Chapter 11 process instead of through the quick sale of its assets.

Michael Richman said in his closing statement that it's doubtful that the government would actually make good on its threat to cut off funding to the automaker if the sale doesn't go through by its July 10 deadline. While GM may be powerless to fight the government's demands, the court can "push back" to protect the interests of all the company's stakeholders, he said.

"The court should draw the line and say that this transaction goes to far," Richman said. "This sends a powerful message that even in the bankruptcy courts of the country's commercial capital there are limits and that rights and due process are not to be sacrificed."

Closing arguments from some of the sale's objectors are expected to continue through the morning, followed by GM's rebuttal.

FACES

Will Mariah take on Eminem in her new vid?

Looks as if Mariah Carey is about to take her feud with Detroit musician Eminem to a whole new level. People.com says Carey was spotted Monday on the set of her music video for "Obsessed" made up to look like a caricature of Slim Shady — soul patch and all. The video is a response to Eminem's tune "Bagpipes From Baghdad" in which he bewails their breakup: "Mariah whatever happened to us / Why did we ever have to break up?" Eminem goes on to insult Carey's hubby, Nick Cannon.

In May, Cannon wrote on his blog that he finds it pathetic that Slim Lamey (nice one) is still obsessed with his wife. For her part, Carey has denied she ever dated the rapper.

— The Philadelphia Inquirer

'Desperate' casting

Drea de Matteo, who played a girl-friend-turned-FBI informant opposite Michael Imperioli in "The Sopranos," has a new address on "Desperate Housewives." Entertainment Weekly says she'll play an Italian woman whose husband is a landscape designer. De Matteo recently became engaged to country singer Shooter Jennings, with whom she has an 18-month-old daughter, Alabama.

— The Philadelphia Inquirer



de Matteo

Anna's Vegas smackdown

Tennis player Anna Kournikova, 28, suffered cuts and bruises to her neck after being embroiled in an apparent smackdown at Lavo Nightclub in Vegas on Saturday.

The New York Post says Kournikova took exception with some random, unidentified woman who threw a drink on her. A shoving match ensued. An anonymous source tells People magazine



Kournikova

that the combatants had to be separated by security guards. "Anna looked really shaken up," the source said.

— The Philadelphia Inquirer

Usher's wife surprised

The wife of R&B singer Usher says she was surprised when the entertainer filed for divorce earlier this month and claims the two were intimate less than a week before he moved to end the marriage.

Tameka Raymond disputes Usher's claims the couple have been separated since July 2008. Raymond says in court documents filed Monday in Fulton County Superior Court that she "had every reason to believe her marriage was intact" and that two were "intimately together as husband and wife as recently as June 6."

Usher, whose real name is Usher Raymond IV, filed for divorce on June 12. He says the marriage is "irretrievably broken." The couple married in August 2007 in a lavish ceremony. They have two sons.

— The Associated Press

Singer welcomes son

Country singer Josh Turner and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of a second son. The singer's record label, MCA Nashville, on Tuesday announced the birth of Colby Lynch Turner. The baby was born Friday. The Turners are also parents to 2-year-old Hampton.

Turner says in a statement that he had been in the studio the past several weeks recording his fourth album and his producer jokingly told his wife



Turner



she needed to wait until they finished the record to have the baby. Turner says they wrapped up the album at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jennifer went into labor after he got home and they were at the hospital by 10:30 p.m. that night.

— The Associated Press

Brown dumped from awards?

Chris Brown and Rihanna were conspicuously absent from Sunday's BET Awards, which featured a tribute to Michael Jackson. The New York Daily News says the Bahamian beauty was too busy hanging out with Orlando Magic forward Rashard Lewis.

As for Brown, who has pleaded guilty to assaulting Rihanna in February, unnamed sources say he was dumped from the show at the last minute because of

Recording artist Mariah Carey, dressed as a doorman, left, and in heels, right, works on the set while filming her new music video "Obsessed" in front of the Plaza Hotel in New York on Monday.

pressure from the Rev. Al Sharpton and Jay-Z, who feared he would inspire negative publicity. Brown's rep says he never was confirmed for the show.

— The Philadelphia Inquirer

Vibe folds

Vibe, the urban music magazine founded in 1993 by Quincy Jones, has gone out of business.

"On behalf (of) the ... staff (the best in this business), it is with great sadness, and with heads held high, that we

leave the building today," editor-in-chief Danyel Smith said in a statement released to AllHipHop.com.

— The Philadelphia Inquirer

ENGAGED



AP file

'Transformers': For geniuses only

Is "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" just a stupid blockbuster, or is it the cinematic equivalent of James Joyce's "Finnegans Wake" whose complex, esoteric symbolism eludes the world's greatest mind?

That's the question that was debated yesterday on CBS' "The Early Show." "Are you supposed to literally understand what every scene is or what it means?" co-host Harry Smith asked Megan Fox, who's in the film.

In a powerful endorsement of the film, Fox said that although she's read the script, starred in the film and watched it, she "still didn't know what was happening," adding, "[If] you understand it, you may be a genius."



More high praise

Josh Duhamel also has high praise for the latest "Transformers" flick and his part in it. "In a certain sense, it's not the most difficult role," he tells Men's Health. "But you still want to give it as much depth as you can." Asked for the millionth time to comment on the widely circulated set of pictures from 2000 that depict him in the nude, he said, "It's funny at this point. Whatever. It's done."

— The Philadelphia Inquirer

When "The Bachelor" winner Melissa Rycroft got jilted for the runner-up, she returned the engagement ring — and walked off the set. That was so five months ago. Now, Rycroft has another sparkler — and a new fiance, Tye Strickland, to go with it. Her spokeswoman, Susan Madore, says Strickland is a 28-year-old insurance agent and has been dating Rycroft on and off for more than two years.

According to Madore, he proposed privately Friday night and then the couple celebrated with both sets of parents over dinner. After Rycroft's run on ABC's "The Bachelor," the 26-year-old former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader appeared on "Dancing With the Stars."

— The Associated Press

FAITH

Musician 3rd Class and American Idol finalist Phil Stacey sings the national anthem and a special military tribute during a Jacksonville Jaguars football game in 2007.

ANTHONY CASULLO
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy



'Idol' alum inspired by faith

BY BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

"American Idol" made Phil Stacey one of the country's most famous sailors when he sang as a finalist in season six.

On his upcoming album, Stacey pays tribute to those who are serving in war zones with much less fanfare.

The ballad "Old Glory" is among the most moving tracks on Stacey's "Into the Light," which is due out Aug. 25.

The idea for the song came to Stacey just after his band played for a ceremony honoring a command returning to Naval Station Mayport, Fla., from deployment.

While walking along the shore afterward, he said, "I looked up and saw a frigate going by with a flag waving ... that song was written in about 15 minutes."

The song focuses on what Americans agree about — basic freedoms and liberty — rather than what separates them.

The song aims to comfort those who are deployed and the families who wait for their return. Stacey hopes that "it gives them strength and lets them know that their sacrifice isn't in vain."

Stacey has already performed it several times, including for the chief of naval operations. "I've had a lot of positive response

Today's Praise

from this song," he said.

Stacey joined the Navy in 2003. He had wanted to enlist immediately after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"I was one of those guys who wanted to leave school and join the military, but my wife stopped me," said Stacey, whose father served in the Air Force in Saigon during the Vietnam War.

However, after he graduated from college and served briefly as a music minister in Colorado, he and his wife decided the time was right to enlist.

While on active duty, Stacey served as a musician 3rd Class.

"It was incredible. I was in a Navy rock band out of Jacksonville, Fla.," he said. "... We put on rock shows for high schools and I sang at Atlanta Braves games."

Stacey is still a reservist, serving as a mass communications specialist — and still doing concerts.

"They have me involved with the local band," said Stacey, who now lives in Nashville, Tenn. "... They had me go to Naples, Italy, where I did some concerts."

Aside from "Old Glory," Stacey's upcoming album is filled with pop songs expressing his faith. For example, the title track

urges people to step into God's light to find his comfort.

"Most of the songs are my personal little sermonettes," he said. "... It deals with the good times, with the bad times, with doubts.... It's about encouragement."

Stacey said he's thankful for his experience on America's favorite musical talent show.

"'American Idol' was kind of my catapult. It gave me the platform to put this music out," he said.

It's something he kept in mind during the wild ride.

"I was constantly bombarded with, 'This isn't about you. It's about what's being done through you ... You couldn't do this on your own strength.'"

And if he ever forgot that, his family — which includes an abundance of preachers — was always there to remind him.

"We've got a great, rich heritage of a people of faith ... When we see something happening that wouldn't normally be happening, it has the fingerprints of God all over it," Stacey said.

You can hear "Old Glory" at www.myspace.com/philstaceymusic.

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry.

500 years later, a look back at Calvin

BY HANNS NEUERBOURG
The Associated Press

GENEVA — John Calvin, the Great Reformer, used dictatorial means in making Geneva a "Protestant Rome," but he also planted the seeds of modern democracy.

He enforced rigid morality and stressed the importance of helping others, while he also had a share in developing capitalism. He supported the destruction of religious statues and other images, but described the arts as gifts from God.

This is how Calvin's role in history is being assessed by theologians and historians in countless lectures, studies and biographies. 500 years after he was born on July 10, 1509. The quincentenary is being observed around the globe with the Geneva-based World Alliance of Reformed Churches acting as a central organizer of "Calvin 09."

Although he remains a controversial figure, Calvin's teachings are still profoundly influential. Born into a middle-class Roman Catholic family in the little French town of Noyon, north of Paris, Calvin became a lawyer, but soon came to sympathize with the anti-papal theses of Martin Luther that had rapidly spread to France. Calvin broke with his Catholic past. His great rhetorical talents earned him quick prominence as an evangelical teacher, but religious turmoil forced him to go into exile in Basel, Switzerland.

He was 26 when he began writing the "Institutes of the Christian Religion," the first compendium of Reformed doctrines, much more profound than Luther's theses of 1517. They won him an invitation from newly Protestant Geneva. But Calvin was soon banished again because authorities found his ideas were too radical.

He returned in 1541 after receiving assurances of official

support for his plans to complete a Reformation based on his teachings. He introduced a revolutionary church constitution based on the democratic principles of division of powers. But he retained the ultimate say.

Calvin drew up an extensive catalog of austere rules of morality. These ranged from bans on swearing, gambling and fornication to a strict policy against dancing, even at weddings. Unexcused absence from worship service was penalized. Adultery and homosexuality could draw severe sentences, even death. But it took more than 10 years before the Reformation consolidated its position against native discontent.

Karl Barth, one of the most influential Reformed 20th century theologians, once criticized Calvin's rigor in controlling Geneva as being near to tyranny and Pharisaism and said, "None of us would have liked to live there."

In contrast, John Knox, the enthusiastic Scottish follower of Calvin, spoke of "the most godly city since the day of the apostles." Knox was minister of a growing congregation of English exiles before he was able to return and become founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

According to Dutch church historian Herman J. Selderhuis, a negative image of Calvin has remained prevalent at least in Western Europe. That image is based on the execution of Michael Servetus, a Spanish theologian whose non-orthodox views were judged by Calvin as heretical.

The Calvinist impact remains evident in the city. The Geneva-based International Red Cross was founded by a devout Calvinist, Henry Dunant. And the League of Nations, forerunner of the United Nations, was set up in Geneva because President Woodrow Wilson, a Presbyterian, preferred the city to Catholic Brussels.

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YOUR MONEY

2010 defense bills lighter than previous years

For the last eight years, lawmakers have loaded annual defense authorization bills with new pay and benefit initiatives to support troops and their families and to show the nation's appreciation.

This year's defense bills — both the version passed by the House, and the Senate bill to be debated on the floor after the July 4 recess — call for a 3.4 percent military pay raise in January, continuing a string of increases that have surpassed private sector wage growth every year since 2000.

Otherwise, the fiscal 2010 defense bill is lighter than usual on significant personnel initiatives. There are many possible reasons for this.

First, much has been done already to raise wartime pay, benefits and support programs. Indeed these gains, along with a dismal civilian job market, have the services meeting recruit-

ing and retention targets despite 200,000 U.S. troops continuing to rotate through Iraq and Afghanistan.

Second, proposals that boost significantly the overall cost of defense, including military personnel accounts, are eyed today against a backdrop of soaring budget deficits.

Third, President Barack Obama and the Democratic majority in Congress have focused much legislative attention on a vigorous domestic agenda, to address the U.S. financial and housing crises, global warming and energy need, and a campaign promise to reform health care.

Fourth, with many senior defense appointees still to be named, including an undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, there isn't a team in place to push a new legislative agenda for personnel this year.

Fifth, the new administration's

— the tremendous pace of operations. This was emotionally described in early June by spouses called to testify before the Senate armed services subcommittee on military personnel.

The spouses' collective message was that what military families need more than anything is more time together. In that regard, perhaps the most critical initiative in the defense bill are permanent increases in end strength for ground forces, and authority to raise active Army strength by another 30,000 by 2012 if the Obama administration decides to budget for it.

The House and Senate versions of the defense bill also propose a variety of modest initiatives to address such concerns and to strengthen support to service families, particularly wounded warriors. But money for "big ticket" items such as a better retirement plan for reservists or to end a reduction in Survivor Benefit Plan payments for widows couldn't be found, at least not yet.

The Senate bill is silent on an initiative from Obama to phase in eligibility for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay for 103,000 "Chapter 61" retirees forced to retire because of service-related disability.

Advocates for Obama's plan still hope senators like Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who have fought to end the ban on concurrent receipt for other military retirees, will find money for the Chapter 61 initiative and add the program as an amendment to the defense bill during floor debate.

The House too had trouble finding mandatory spending "offsets" to pay for concurrent receipt for Chapter 61 retirees. It finally did find money to cover only the first year of Obama's plan, which would target Chapter 61 retirees with fewer than 20 years and disability ratings of 90 percent or 100 percent.

To comment, e-mail milupdate@aol.com, write to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120-1111 or visit: www.militaryupdate.com

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week				Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
High	Low	Name	Chg					
11,924.19	6,469.95	Dow Jones Industrials	-8,504.06	+57.06	+6.68	+3.10	+24.18	
5,293.41	2,134.21	Dow Jones Transportation	3,278.43	+43.87	+1.36	-7.31	-29.54	
528.07	288.66	Dow Jones Utilities	361.65	+3.84	+1.07	+2.46	-30.25	
8,945.54	4,181.75	NYSE Composite	5,954.01	+48.86	+0.83	+5.42	+29.7	
2,257.28	1,130.47	Amerix Index	1,593.37	+11.35	+0.72	+14.01	+27.11	
2,473.20	1,265.52	Nasdaq Composite	1,845.72	+10.68	+0.58	+2.22	+18.02	
1,335.63	666.79	S&P 500	923.33	+4.01	+0.44	+2.22	+26.81	
861.19	397.97	S&P MidCap	584.24	+6.10	+1.06	+8.54	+26.56	
13,634.46	6,772.29	Wilshire 5000	9,481.59	+53.40	+0.57	+4.34	+26.17	
764.38	342.59	Russell 2000	517.46	+9.18	+1.81	+3.61	+23.04	

NYSE

AMEX

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)				MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)				MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Bkfstm	234,726	13.05	-.15	PSCrudeDL	91784	4.32	-.10	Intel	899919	17.04	+.49
SPDR	149,973	92.33	+.38	Hemisphix	57956	2.62	+.08	PwShs QOQ	759011	36.40	+.02
DixyFinBear	99,660	4.71	+.05	EldorCl d	23941	9.17	+.22	MicroSoft	513425	24.04	+.27
DixyFinBull	97,179	9.17	-.07	PSCrudeDS	19966	76.32	+.18	TECRA	375074	1.35	+.06
Ford	94,530	5.91	-.16	NtHtgM g	18220	2.17	+.03	Cisco	351118	18.80	.15
Citigrp	82,251	2.97	..	US Gold	18784	2.77	+.13	Dell Inc	277763	13.39	-.34
iShEMkt s	79,065	32.82	+.59	BarcCSol	17308	24.69	-.34	Oracle	272292	21.74	+.32
GenElec	61,7601	11.78	+.06	Novagld g	15638	4.45	+.17	CardioNet	206339	9.57	-.67
WellsFargo	55,4001	24.14	-.12	GoldStr g	14247	2.10	+.05	FifthThird	189698	7.16	+.06
SPDR Fndc	54,0382	11.88	-.07	Taseko	13442	1.77	+.06	ApldMat	185832	11.13	+.12

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD % Chg
Alliant Techsystems	..	19	82.91	+.55	-.33
Boeing	1.68	15	42.23	-.27	-.10
Computer Sciences	..	6	44.70	+.40	+.27
General Dynamics	1.52	9	55.68	+.29	-.33
General Electric	0	17	30.78	+.06	-.27
Halliburton	.56	14	20.70	-.10	-.19
Harris Corp.	.80	12	29.25	+.89	-.18
Allied Signal	1.21	9	31.86	+.46	-.30
L-3 Communications	1.40	9	68.63	-.75	-.70
Lockheed Martin	2.28	10	80.64	-.01	-.41
Northrop G	1.72	..	46.09	+.41	+.23
Raytheon	1.24	11	44.89	+.46	-.12
Rockwell Intl.	1.16	11	32.52	+.40	+.9
Texas Instruments	.44	23	21.60	+.06	+.39
Textron Inc.	.08	7	10.03	+.37	-.27
United Technologies	1.54	11	52.28	+.32	-.25

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg	% Ret.
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	55.35	+.06	+13.1
Fidelity Spartan: EqdInv	32.84	+.14	+3.7
Fidelity Invest: USBI	10.85	+.01	+2.6
Fidelity Invest: Overseas	26.97	+.45	+7.5
Fidelity Invest: GroIncls	13.39	+.02	+1.9
Fidelity Invest: GroIncls	12.17	+.05	+12.9
Amer Country Inv: Ultra	15.87	+.02	+9.8
Putnam Funds A: GrhA p	9.83	+.04	+5.7
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.54	+.04	+8.0
AIM Investments A: Const p	17.32	+.05	+2.9
Frank/Tmp Fmk A: SMCpGr	23.22	-.01	+14.8
DWS Invst S: GroIncs	11.73	+.06	+7.9
Fidelity Advisor T: EqnT	17.17	+.06	+1.7
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOpT	22.14	+.01	+16.3
DWS Invst S: CbRtD p	37.14	+.57	+8.9
Putnam Funds A: CbRtD p	6.94	+.07	+9.9
Lord Abbett A: DevGta p	12.96	+.05	+22.1
Fidelity Advisor T: OverseaT	14.13	+.22	+5.2
DWS Invst S: CorpLnsC	9.89	+.01	+4.5

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.50
Federal funds market rate	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	0.16
30-year bond	4.34

Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press

GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan/Okinawa	--	\$2.608	--	\$2.453
Change in price	--	-4.5 cents	--	-0.8 cents
South Korea	\$2.735	--	\$2.976	\$2.701
Change in price	-4.9 cents	--	-4.1 cents	-0.8 cents
Guam	\$2.829*	\$2.949	\$3.069	--
Change in price	-5.0 cents	-4.0 cents	-4.0 cents	--

For the week of July 4-10 * Midgrade

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

defense budget request reached Capitol Hill three months later than usual, leaving the armed services committees less time to hold hearings or weigh new initiatives. Given that delay, some substantive personnel initiatives, such as a retroactive \$500-a-month payment for members kept on active duty under stop-loss orders, have been attached to other bills, in this case a wartime supplemental appropriation.

Finally, there's growing recognition that costly personnel initiatives haven't relieved the greatest source of strain today on servicemembers and their families

(Military rates) Japanese yen (July 3) 94.00 South Korean won (July 3) 1,237.00 Euro costs (July 3) \$1,4451 Dollar buys (July 3) € 0.6920 British pound (July 3) \$1.69 Commercial rates Bahrain (Dinar) \$0.3770 British pound \$1.6354 Canada (Dollar) 1.1550 China (Yuan) 6.8324 Denmark (Krone) 5.3079 Egypt (Pound) 5.5900 Euro \$1.4033/0.7126 Hong Kong (Dollar) 7.7501 Hungary (Forint) 193.72 Israel (Shekel) 3.8774 Japan (Yen) 96.15 Kuwait (Dinar) 0.2878 Norway (Krone) 6.3921 Philippines (Peso) 48.09 Poland (Zloty) 3.12 Saudi Arabia (Riyal) 3.7503 Singapore (Dollar) 1.4515 South Korea (Won) 1,281.75 Switzerland (Franc) 1,0841 Thailand (Baht) 34.08 Turkey (New Lira) 1.5327 (Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar) \$0.3770

British pound \$1.6354

Canada (Dollar) 1.1550

China (Yuan) 6.8324

Denmark (Krone) 5.3079

Egypt (Pound) 5.5900

Euro \$1.4033/0.7126

Hong Kong (Dollar) 7.7501

Hungary (Forint) 193.72

Israel (Shekel) 3.8774

Japan (Yen) 96.15

Kuwait (Dinar) 0.2878

Norway (Krone) 6.3921

Philippines (Peso) 48.09

Poland (Zloty) 3.12

Saudi Arabia (Riyal) 3.7503

Singapore (Dollar) 1.4515

South Korea (Won) 1,281.75

Switzerland (Franc) 1,0841

Thailand (Baht) 34.08

Turkey (New Lira) 1.5327

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

Elizabeth Conley, The Detroit News/AP

Big cities like Detroit, above, will be able to keep their Fourth of July fireworks displays this year.

Many communities scale back fireworks displays

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM

The Associated Press

Lack of bucks means less bang this Fourth of July for many cash-strapped cities.

Fireworks shows are being canceled or scaled back, mostly in small and midsize cities, as municipalities' tax revenue dries up with the slowing economy and falling home prices. Funding from corporate sponsorships also has fizzled as businesses deal with economic problems of their own.

In some cases, it's not just the fireworks shows getting the ax. Municipal and corporate sponsors, forced into frugality by the tough economy, have reduced or pulled funding for whole festivals encompassing music, food and

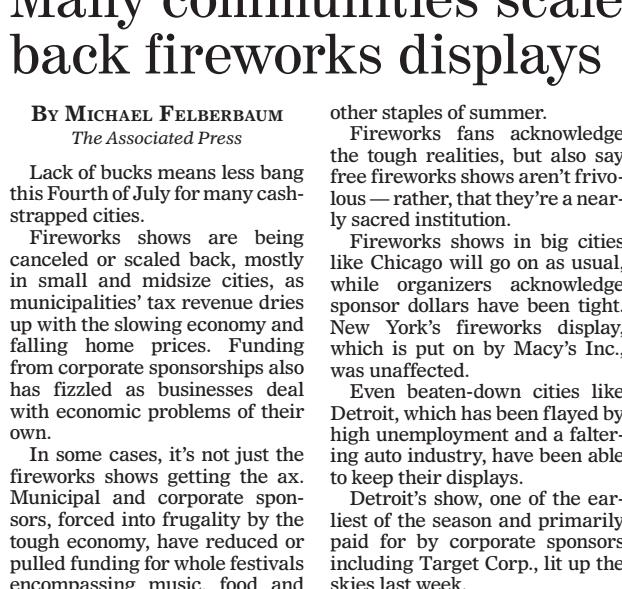
other staples of summer.

Fireworks fans acknowledge the tough realities, but also say free fireworks shows aren't frivolous — rather, that they're a nearly sacred institution.

Fireworks shows in big cities like Chicago will go on as usual, while organizers acknowledge sponsor dollars have been tight. New York's fireworks display, which is put on by Macy's Inc., was unaffected.

Even beaten-down cities like Detroit, which has been plagued by high unemployment and a faltering auto industry, have been able to keep their displays.

Detroit's show, one of the earliest of the season and primarily paid for by corporate sponsors including Target Corp., lit up the skies last week.



DEA to look at possible drug use by Jackson

BY ANTHONY McCARTNEY
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—With the federal Drug Enforcement Administration now joining the investigation into Michael Jackson's death, Jermaine Jackson says he would be "hurt" if toxicology reports show that his younger brother abused prescription drugs. "In this business, the pressures and things that you go through, you never know what one turns to," Jermaine Jackson said in an interview broadcast Thursday on NBC's "Today" show.

The circumstances surrounding Jackson's death last week have become a federal issue, with the DEA asked to help police take a look at the pop star's doctors

and possible drug use. Allegations have emerged that the 50-year-old entertainer had been consuming painkillers, sedatives and antidepressants.

Asked if he would be shocked or surprised if Michael's drug use was proved, Jermaine Jackson said, "I would be hurt." He said he had heard about prescription drug use in the 1980s when his brother was hurt in an accident filming a commercial but did not know if drug use was a

possibility more recently.

Psychic entertainer Uri Geller, a former Jackson confidant, said Thursday he tried to keep Jackson from abusing painkillers and other prescription drugs, but others in the singer's circle kept him supplied.

"When Michael asked for something, he got it. This was the great tragedy," Geller said from his suburban London home.

Jermaine Jackson said he would like Neverland Ranch to be his brother's final resting place. A person familiar with the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity told the AP that permits for a burial at Neverland could not be arranged in time. Jermaine Jackson said in the "Today" interview that he wishes he had died instead of his younger brother, and that Michael

was "a gift from Allah."

"He went too soon," he said. "I don't know how people are going to take this, but I wish it was me." When asked why he felt that way, he said that he always felt that he was Michael's backbone.

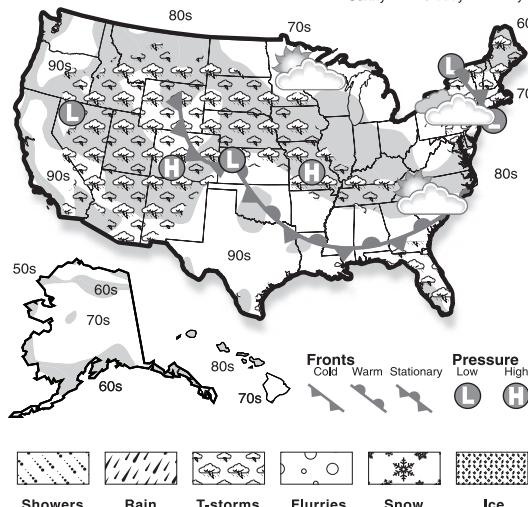
He said it was a friend who told him last week that his brother had been rushed to the hospital. He called his mother, Katherine, who told him that Michael was dead.

"To feel and hear the tone in her voice, to say her child is dead, is nothing that anyone can imagine," he said. Jermaine Jackson said he rushed to UCLA Medical Center. He asked to see his brother's body. He hugged and kissed him and said, "Michael, I'll never leave you. You'll never leave me," he said.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

National forecast

Forecast highs for Friday, July 3



Active Weather Develops Across Nation

Strong to severe storms are expected to develop across the Plains, while scattered showers and thunderstorms persist across areas of the Great Lakes and Northeast. Moisture will fuel active weather across the Florida Peninsula and the western mountains.

Weather Underground • AP

Thursday's global temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Weather
Amsterdam	79	62	pc
Athens	86	64	clr
Auckland	55	46	pc
Baghdad	109	84	pc
Basra	120	89	pc
Bahrain	97	87	clr
Bangkok	99	77	rn
Barbados	87	76	rn
Barcelona	91	73	clr
Beijing	91	69	rn
Beirut	99	80	clr
Belgrade	78	64	clr
Berlin	80	62	rn
Bermuda	82	75	rn
Bogota	64	48	rn
Brasilia	81	55	clr
Brisbane	71	50	pc
Brussels	82	59	clr
Bucharest	85	61	rn
Budapest	86	64	pc
Buenos Aires	61	43	clr
Cairo	100	81	clr
Calgary	66	41	rn
Caracas	89	79	pc
Colombo	84	77	rn
Copenhagen	80	64	pc
Dhahran	116	82	clr
Dhaka	89	78	rn
Dili	89	71	clr
Dubai	114	87	clr
Dublin	69	57	rn
Frankfurt	87	62	rn
Geneva	81	59	rn
Guatemala	77	66	pc
Hanoi	92	79	pc
Harare	61	41	pc
Havana	89	75	pc
Helsinki	73	46	clr
Hong Kong	91	84	clr
Islamabad	99	78	clr
Istanbul	90	70	clr
Jakarta	89	73	pc
Jerusalem	102	73	clr
Johannesburg	58	37	clr
Kabul	86	55	clr
Kiev	77	61	clr
Kuala Lumpur	90	77	pc
Kuwait	117	93	clr

SATURDAY'S FORECAST



Air Force Weather/www.afweather.af.mil

Thursday's U.S. temperatures

City	Hi Lo	Precip	Weather
Casper	87	52	rn
Abilene, Tex.	90	70	clr
Akron, Ohio	73	58	.03
Albany, N.Y.	78	62	2.76
Albuquerque	92	70	clr
Allentown, Pa.	82	64	1.83
Amarillo	90	63	clr
Anchorage	66	53	clr
Asheville	85	60	clr
Atlanta	95	69	clr
Atlantic City	84	67	.12
Austin	95	71	clr
Baltimore	85	64	.35
Baton Rouge	99	78	clr
Billings	79	57	clr
Birmingham	94	67	clr
Bismarck	82	58	clr
Boise	92	64	clr
Boston	62	58	.61
Bridgeport	74	65	.05
Brownsville	94	78	clr
Buffalo	73	62	4.8
Burlington, Vt.	79	61	rn
Caribou, Maine	71	61	clr
Charleston, S.C.	96	77	cdy
Charleston, W.Va.	77	63	0.09
Charlotte, N.C.	92	60	.04
Chattanooga	92	65	clr
Cheyenne	81	54	.12
Chicago	65	59	cdy
Cincinnati	69	59	.04
Cleveland	71	59	.08
Colorado Springs	88	59	cdy
Columbia, S.C.	100	69	.04
Columbus, Ga.	96	74	clr
Columbus, Ohio	73	59	.14
Concord, N.H.	63	57	.46
Corpus Christi	97	75	cdy
Dallas-Ft Worth	99	76	clr
Dayton	70	58	cdy
Daytona Beach	86	73	cdy
Denver	92	56	.04
Des Moines	82	61	clr
Detroit	72	56	.06
Duluth	64	54	clr
El Paso	92	75	cdy
Elkins	75	60	.97
Erie	69	50	.24
Eugene	87	51	clr
Evansville	80	59	cdy
Fairbanks	78	54	cdy
Fargo	79	54	cdy
Flagstaff	84	58	cdy
Flint	65	46	cdy
Fort Smith	95	66	clr
Fort Wayne	69	57	.01
Fresno	101	72	cdy
Goodland	90	62	cdy
Grand Junction	96	70	cdy
Grand Rapids	64	53	.06
Greeley	65	58	cdy
Green Bay	66	58	cdy
Greensboro, N.C.	90	65	cdy
Harrisburg	82	65	.69
Hartford	79	57	Spfld
Helena	81	54	cdy
Honolulu	85	76	cdy
Houston	98	76	cdy
Huntsville	93	65	cdy
Idaho Falls	73	46	cdy
Indianapolis	69	61	cdy
Jackson, Miss.	99	73	cdy
Jacksonville	95	74	cdy
Juneau	58	50	.02
Kansas City	84	65	79
Key West	91	81	.13
Knoxville	83	64	cdy
Lake Charles	96	78	cdy
Lansing	66	54	.19
Las Vegas	105	88	cdy
Lexington	73	63	cdy
Lincoln	86	67	cdy
Little Rock	93	69	cdy
Los Angeles	76	61	cdy
Louisville	73	65	cdy
Lubbock	90	66	clr
Macomb	99	69	.01
Madison	63	53	cdy
Medford	96	59	cdy
Memphis	91	70	cdy
Miami Beach	93	76	.01
Midland-Odessa	89	71	cdy
Milwaukee	64	56	.08
Mpls-St Paul	73	57	.04
Missoula	85	48	cdy
Mobile	97	77	cdy
Nashville	84	69	cdy
Newark	81	68	.07
New York City	81	66	.15
North Platte	86	63	.21
Omaha	85	61	cdy
Ore.	81	73	.18
Orlando	81	73	rn
Paducah	84	65	cdy
Pendleton	87	51	.12
Peoria	69	61	cdy
Philadelphia	86	67	.15
Phoenix	102	83	cdy
Pittsburgh	72	61	.01
Pocatello	86	53	cdy
Portland	59	56	.24
Portland, Ore.	87	63	clr
Providence	71	60	.27
Pueblo	98	62	cdy
Raleigh-Durham	97	67	.04
Rapid City	82	60	cdy
Reno	93	66	cdy
Rio Rancho	84	69	cdy
Riverside	80	65	cdy
Roseburg	79	59	cdy
Sioux City	86	59	cdy
Sioux Falls	81	53	cdy
South Bend	65	58	.05
St. Louis	82	65	cdy
St. Petersburg	82	75	1.30
St. Thomas	87	80	clr
Salem, Ore.	89	56	clr
Salt Lake City	92	67	rn
San Angelo	89	69	cdy
San Antonio	98	78	cdy
San Diego	73	65	cdy
San Francisco	73	56	cdy
San Jose	79	58	cdy
San Juan, P.R.	93	79	cdy
Santa Fe	92	63	cdy
Seattle	79	59	cdy
Shreveport	101	74	cdy
Sitka	84	65	cdy
Sitka Falls	81	53	cdy
South Bend	65	58	.05
Spokane	83	55	clr
Springfield, Ill.	72	63	cdy
Springfield, Mo.	83	60	cdy
Syracuse	76	62	.02
Tallahassee	98	78	cdy
Tampa	81	75	1.84
Toledo	72	56	.07
Topeka	87	66	cdy
Tucson	97	78	cdy
Tulsa	92	64	clr
Tupelo	92	65	clr
Waco	98	75	clr
Washington, D.C.	84	66	.04
W.Palm Beach	91	74	.33
Wichita Falls	99	69	cdy
Wilkes-Barre	80	63	.35
Wilmette	81	55	cdy
Wilmington	85	67	1.26
Yakima	88	50	clr
Youngstown	71	57	.22

National temperature extremes
High: Wed., 114, Bullhead City, Ariz.
Low: Thurs., 35, Meacham, Ore.

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AFRTS Television ScheduleUpdated sports listings are available on AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2009

	(AFN-ATLANTIC)	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-PACIFIC)	(PENTAGON)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(XTRA)
9:00	CSI: Miami Horatio's past comes back to haunt him.	Movie "Lilo & Stitch" (2002, Comedy) Voices of Daveigh Chase, Tia Carrere.	John Adams "Unite or Die" (2002, Comedy) Voices of Chris Rock, Regina King.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	The View	Recon Revisited	Mad About You	MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Chicago Cubs. From Wrigley Field in Chicago. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)	(8:00) Sports
9:30	Oprah Winfrey	Animaniacs	(20) John Adams "Unnecessary War" (Part 6 of 7)	Hannity	Dr. Phil	Fit For Duty	Living Single "Dear John"		Sports
10:00		Scooby		Anderson Cooper 360	Judge Alex	Sun City Soldier	E! News		
10:30		Scooby			The King of Queens	Fit For Duty	The Daily 10		
11:00	Dr. Phil								
11:30									
12:00	CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	(11:56) Movie "Down to Earth" (2001, Comedy) Chris Rock, Regina King.	Special Report With Bret Baier	Access Hollywood	Battleground	Star Trek "Friday's Child"	SportsCenter	
12:30	ESPN News	SpongeBob SquarePants		Judge Judy		Around the Services			
13:00	Prime News Tonight	Ozzy & Dix		Campbell Brown	The Young and the Restless	Briefing Encore	Roseanne	Baseball Tonight	
13:30		WordGirl	(37) Movie "Hot Shots! Part Deux" (1993) Charlie Sheen. An inept commando goes on a rescue mission.			Downrange	Girlfriends	NFL Live	
14:00	NBC Nightly News	Play With Me Sesame		Your World With Neil Cavuto	General Hospital	AFN Europe Report	Emeril Live	SportsCenter	Sports
14:30	World News-Gibson	Hi-5				Recon Revisited			
15:00	Sesame Street	The Brady Bunch	(20) Movie "The Suburbs" (1999, Comedy) Craig Bierko, Amy Brenneman.	The Rachel Maddow Show	Days of our Lives	Fit For Duty	Kimora: Fab	SportsCenter	
15:30		The Brady Bunch				Battleground	Kimora: Fab		
16:00	The View	Movie "Freaky Friday" (2003) Jamie Lee Curtis, A woman and her daughter magically exchange bodies.	Around the Services	Oprah Winfrey	Army Newswatch	Man vs. Wild Australia's Outback.	MLB Baseball Chicago White Sox at Kansas City Royals. From Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. (Same-day Tape Subject to Blackout)	MTV Hits Playlist	
16:30			Tavis Smiley	Nightline	EXchange on Air	King of the Hill		X Play	
17:00	Dr. Phil	Behind the Scenes	Nightly Business Report	The O'Reilly Factor	Today's Air Force	That '70s Show		Punk'd	
17:30		The Big Tease			Around the Services	Daily Show-Jon Stewart		The Simpsons	
18:00	Judge Alex	Duel Masters	What It Takes	Entertainment Tonight	All Hands TV	The Colbert Report		Family Guy	
18:30	The King of Queens	Kim Possible		Countdown With Keith Obermann	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Lunacy"	Briefing Encore	Scrubs "My Happy Place"	SportsCenter	National Heads-Up Poker Championship
19:00	Access Hollywood	Unfabulous			Fit For Duty	My Name Is Earl			
19:30	Judge Judy	True Jackson, VP		Today	CSI: Miami "Raging Cannibal"	Battleground	Chuck "Chuck Versus the Fat Lady"	Tennis Wimbledon -- Men's Semifinals. (Live)	
20:00	The Young and the Restless	Sonny With a Chance	(45) Movie "A Beautiful Mind" (2001) Russell Crowe, Ed Harris. Mathematical John Forbes Nash Jr. has paranoid schizophrenia.		Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited			
20:30		Wizards of Waverly Place			America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	Around the Services	Brothers & Sisters "Going Once... Going Twice"	South Park	
21:00	General Hospital	Wildfire "Trust" Kris is released.				Pacific Report		South Park "Marjorie"	
21:30				America's Newsroom	Briefing Encore	Seinfeld "The Glasses"	Tennis Wimbledon -- Men's Semifinals. (Live)	Best Damn Sports Show Period	
22:00	Days of our Lives	Heroes "Run!"		The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	All Hands TV	Friends			Attack of the Show!
22:30					Today's Air Force	Daily Show-Jon Stewart			
23:00	Oprah Winfrey	7th Heaven "Choices"	Movie "The Fly" (1986) Jeff Goldblum, Geena Davis.	Newsroom	Late Show-Letterman	Downrange	The Colbert Report		
23:30									

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2009

00:00	Wheel of Fortune	Unfabulous	(11:00) Movie "The Fly" (1986) Jeff Goldblum, Geena Davis.	MSNBC Live	Late Show-Letterman	Recon	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon	(10:00) Tennis Wimbledon -- Men's Semifinals. From the All-England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, England. (Live)	X Play
00:30	Jeopardy!	True Jackson, VP			The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Fit For Duty	Scrub		Punk'd
1:00	Headline News	Sonny With a Chance	(12:50) Movie "Mystery, Alaska" (1999) Russell Crowe, Ed Harris. Rangers play a local Alaskan hockey team.	Happening Now	The Grill Sergeants	Around the Services	My Name Is Earl		The Simpsons
1:30	ATS/AFN Report	Wizards of Waverly Place	Wildfire "Trust" Kris is released.	Newsroom	Judge Judy	Downrange	Desperate Housewives		Family Guy
2:00	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Lunacy"		Movie "The Messengers" (2007, Horror) Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott.	MSNBC Live	Oprah Winfrey	Desperate Housewives	The American Veteran	National Heads-Up Poker Championship	
2:30				Studio B With Shepard Smith	EXchange on Air	Third Watch "History"			
3:00	CSI: Miami Horatio and the team face the Russian mob.	Heroes	The truth about Claire's biological father comes out.		State Dept Briefing				
3:30				The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	Dr. Phil	Battleground	Seinfeld "The Glasses"		
4:00	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	7th Heaven "Choices"		Glen Beck	Good Morning America	Around the Services	Friends		South Park
4:30					This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon	Kiana's Flex Appeal		South Park "Marjorie"
5:00	Headline News	Barney & Friends			National Guard News	Denise Austin's Getting Fit			Best Damn Sports Show Period
5:30	The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Oobi				Downrange	Easy Entertaining	Around the Horn	Attack of the Show!
6:00		Sesame Street				Around the Services	Ace of Cakes		
6:30	Late Show With David Letterman	My Friend Rabbit				Dragon	Pardon the Interruption		
7:00		Movie "Galaxy Quest"				Briefing Encore	Ultimate Goals	MTV Hits Playlist	
7:30	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Clifford's Puppy Days	(1999, Comedy) Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver. Aliens kidnap actors from an old sci-fi TV series.			Downrange	Clean House		
8:00		Ni Hao, Kai-lan					MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Boston Red Sox. From Fenway Park in Boston. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)		
8:30	Judge Judy	Mickey Mouse Clubhouse							
9:00	CSI: Miami "All In" The team races to save Calliegh	Sid the Science Kid							
9:30		Phineas and Ferb							
10:00	Oprah Winfrey	The Buzz on Maggie							
10:30		American Dragon: Jake Long							
11:00	Dr. Phil	My Life as a Teenage Robot	(19:00) Movie "First Knight" (1995) Sean Connery, Richard Gere. The evil Malagant threatens the peace of Camelot.						
11:30		Static Shock							
12:00	CBS Evening News	Teen Kids News							
12:30	ESPN News	Grossology							
13:00	NBC Nightly News	Out There							
13:30	World News-Gibson	Planet's Funniest Animals							
14:00	Dragon	Faithful Friends							
14:30	Ribert & Robert's Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files								
15:00	Sonic the Hedgehog	Animal Miracles "In the Face of Adversity"	(25) Movie "Independence Day" (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum. Earthlings vs. evil aliens in 15-mile-wide ships.						
15:30	Danny Phantom	SpongeBob SquarePants							
16:00	Naruto	SpongeBob SquarePants							
16:30	Darcy's Wild Life	SpongeBob SquarePants							
17:00	Entertainment Studios.com	Bindi the Jungle Girl	Movie "The Three Musketeers" (1993) Charlie Sheen. The Musketeers seek to break Richelleieu's pact with Britain.						
17:30	Criss Angel Mindfreak	Lemur Kingdom							
18:00	Dogfights "Flying Tigers"	The Universe Stars collide, devour one another and explode.							
18:30									
19:00	Access Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance							
19:30									
20:00	Deadliest Catch	The crews return to prepare their boats.							
20:30	Law & Order "Church"	Dawson's Creek "Kiss"							
21:00									
22:00	Law & Order A troubled NYPD officer takes hostages.	Movie "Spider-Man 2" (2004) Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst. Peter Parker fights a man who has mechanical tentacles.							
22:30									
23:00	Leverage "The Stork Job"		(41) Movie "American Pie" (1999, Comedy) Jason Biggs, Shannon Elizabeth. Teens agonize over losing their virginity.						
23:30									

News

MIDDLE EAST HEADLINES

Alleged serial rapist barred from work at U.S. bases in

SCOREBOARD

Pacific scoreboard for the April 8 edition

Enter city or zip code: [Input Field]

Location | Default Location | [C° | F°]

Military News

Sports

Weather

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Virginia scrutinizes car title lending

VA RICHMOND — Virginia legislators are beginning to take a look at the unregulated business of car title lending.

A study committee of three senators and three delegates were meeting for the first time to look at how the high-interest lenders operate in Virginia and discuss possible changes in the law.

Car title lenders operate under the state's open-end credit law, which allows lenders to charge whatever they want as long as they don't charge anything for the first 25 days. Other than that restriction, the lenders are unregulated.

Industry opponents have asked legislators to cap the interest the lenders can charge at 36 percent annually, but legislators put off the issue to give the committee a chance to study it this summer.

Firefighters exposed to chemicals in lab fire

NY TROY — More than a dozen firefighters were recovering after they were exposed to smoke and chemicals after a fire broke out inside a laboratory at an Albany-area college.

No one was seriously injured but Troy Fire Department officials say 15 firefighters were checked out at a hospital after the blaze in a chemical lab at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Fire Chief Tom Garrett said the fire broke out on the third floor of a lab in a science building. He said a student was working alone and accidentally ignited the fire while conducting an experiment.

RPI officials say the student suffered burns to her hands and was treated at Troy hospital. The college's public safety department is conducting an investigation.

Chicago landmark opens 103rd floor 'Skydeck'

IL CHICAGO — The Sears Tower is offering a new way to push your fear of heights right over the edge.

A glass ledge, actually suspended from the building's 103rd floor Skydeck. "The Ledge" is the nickname given to a set of glass balconies that are open to the public.

Sears Tower officials say the inspiration for the balconies came from the hundreds of forehead prints visitors left behind on Skydeck windows.

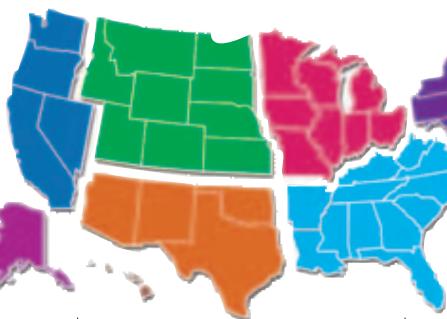
The glass is three layers thick, and each layer is a half-inch thick. The balconies can hold about 5 tons.

Other changes are on the way for the tallest building in the United States. They include its new name of Willis Tower and a \$350 million green renovation.

Judge accused of giving grandson break on fine

PA HARRISBURG — A magistrate district judge in suburban Philadelphia is accused of reducing a fine her grandson got for underage drinking and screaming at a police officer.

The state Judicial Conduct Board made the allegations in a complaint about District Judge



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Susan McEwen.

The complaint says McEwen's then-18-year-old grandson was cited for underage drinking at a 2007 party held at her home while she slept. The case was assigned to another judge, who found the teen guilty and fined him \$300. The complaint says McEwen reduced the fine to \$150.

High-speed chase ends with collision

TX DALLAS — A high-speed chase through the Dallas area ended with the car being pursued by authorities running a red light and colliding with a pickup truck.

Television reports said the chase lasted about 90 minutes after starting in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite.

Television reports identified the suspect as Shane Michel, 29. He was in critical condition after the crash at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, said hospital spokeswoman Maria Carpenter.

Scouts buying land for 'high-adventure base'

WV CHARLESTON — The Boy Scouts of America is buying 10,600 acres in Fayette County where they'll build what they're calling a "high-adventure base" beside the New River Gorge National River park.

Officials said the camp — between Glen Jean, Prince and Mount



Harvesting

A combine harvests wheat under the wind turbines of the Smoky Hills Wind Project near Lincoln, Kan.

Hope — is expected to attract thousands of scouts from across the country each year and bring as many as 80 full-time jobs and 1,000 seasonal workers to the area.

The adventure base is expected to offer whitewater rafting, rappelling, mountain biking, hiking and other outdoor activities. It's part of the organization's new National Scouting Center, which includes a "Jamboree" conference center in Goshen, Va.

Woman dies when car crashes into a tree

MA BOURNE — Bourne police say a speeding driver lost control of a sports car and slammed head-on into a tree in Pocasset, killing a 21-year-old back seat passenger.

Police said that Cassandra Flynn of Bourne was pronounced dead following the early morning crash.

Police said the driver of the 1984 Porsche 944, Jonathan Muir of Falmouth, and the two other passengers, Sonya Dangelo and Erica Pouler, both of Bourne, suffered injuries in the crash. Pouler had turned 21 that day.

Newspaper lays off 9 amid economic woes

MN ST. PAUL — The St. Paul Pioneer Press laid off nine newsroom employees, the paper's editor told the staff.

In an e-mail to employees, editor Thom Fladung said the layoffs were needed to deal with the challenges of a difficult economy and unprecedented change in the industry.

Those laid off included five copy editors, two page designers, Minnesota Twins beat reporter Phil Miller and photographer Brandi Thomas.

"These people are more than just a list of names in an e-mail," Fladung wrote. "They are a talented and productive collection of journalists whose work here included designing dynamic pages, producing memorable photos and videos, covering one of our highest-profile beats in the Twins, writing vibrant headlines and saving us from ourselves by asking good questions and catching and correcting numerous errors of fact and nuance."

Shell reefs planned to restore fading oysters

NH DURHAM — New Hampshire's large inland bay — called Great Bay — is getting a new reef full of oysters.

The Nature Conservancy and partners including the University of New Hampshire say it's part of a broad effort to restore oysters to Great Bay, which once had about 1,000 acres of productive oyster reefs. Today, fewer than 100 acres remain.

Oysters filter water in the estuary's ecosystem and used to keep many local harvesters well-supplied. They also help provide important habitat for fish and other marine life.

The Nature Conservancy and UNH's Jackson Estuarine Lab are leading the effort to plant shell reefs in carefully selected parts of the bay.



Supersonic

This image provided by the U.S. Navy shows an Air Force F-22 Raptor executing a supersonic flyby over the flight deck of the aircraft carrier

USS John C. Stennis in the Gulf of Alaska.



Ferry view

Passengers, seen through an opening on the side of the Casco Bay ferry, disembark and walk along the wharf on Little Diamond

Island, Maine.



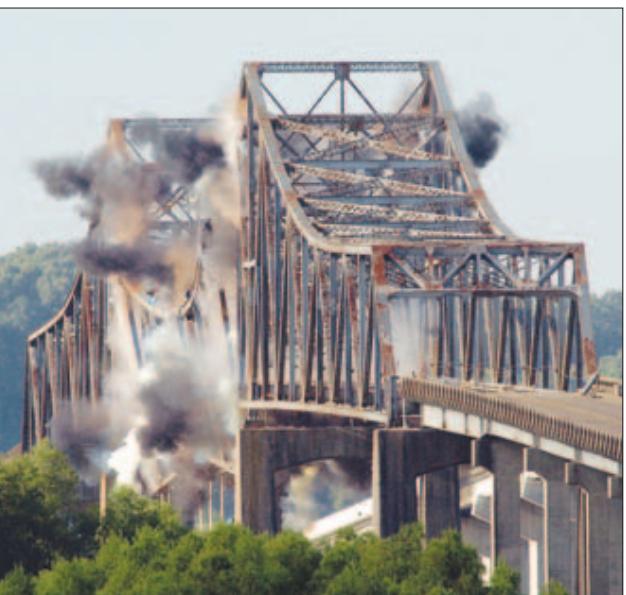
A call to party

Colonial soldier re-enactors Carmine Calabrese, left, and Dan Moylan of the Bostonia Allarum Companie play their instruments as 1-year-old Thomas Mitchell watches during the Harborfest opening ceremony at Faneuil Hall Market Place in Boston.



River rescue

A local construction worker, suspended from a crane, rescues a woman who fell into the Des Moines River near the Center Street Dam in downtown Des Moines, Iowa.



Span is history

The center span of the 1950 Yazoo River Bridge at Redwood is dynamited in Vicksburg, Miss. The Yazoo River bridge that linked Warren County and the Mississippi Delta for more than a half-century was demolished before a small crowd.



Learning the ropes

A plebe, or freshman, at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., begins to learn the "reef points" during induction day. "I-day," as the first day of Plebe Summer is called, is the day in which new appointees are transformed from civilians into midshipmen.



Awaiting liftoff

Space Shuttle Endeavour is shown on launch pad 39A in Cape Canaveral, Fla. After some delays, the shuttle should fly this month.

Nonprofit group saves outdoor learning center

NH HANCOCK — A New Hampshire outdoor education center slated for closure at the end of the summer has been saved by a nonprofit group.

Boston University planned to close its Sargent Center for Outdoor Education, a 700-acre property that straddles Peterborough and Hancock, citing financial reasons. But Nature's Classroom, which operates 13 environmental education programs in New England and New York, recently stepped in and signed a letter of intent with the university to lease the property starting Sept. 1. The Keene Sentinel reported.

The center will keep most of its programs, which include field trips for school groups and conferences.

Computer attack leaves some lacking medication

VA RICHMOND — State officials say people with excruciating pain are unable to receive powerful painkilling drugs they need because of the response to a hacker's attack on the state prescription drug database.

Two Virginia legislative panels took aim on the state's troubled computer superagency and its \$2 billion, 10-year contract with Northrop Grumman Corp.

The hacker accessed about 35 million computerized prescription records in late April.

A House panel learned that powerful drugs such as Oxycontin, Valium, Vicodin and Ritalin are being withheld because pharmacists can't check with the prescription drug database that still allows limited access.

Pension market losses are blamed on deficit

VT BENNINGTON — Reeling from revelations of a \$22 million budget deficit, Southwestern Vermont Health Care officials say market losses in the hospital's pension plan for employees are partly to blame.

The defined benefit plan has lost about \$10 million as the recession takes its toll on financial markets.

Defined benefit plans pay employees based on years of service. Most employers now use 401(k) or other defined contribution plans, which put investment risks with individuals instead of the plan sponsor.

Ceremony marks start of new shipping lock

MI SAULT STE. MARIE — A ceremony will mark the first step toward building a new shipping lock at Sault Ste. Marie.

Ground was to be broken this week for two dams to hold back the St. Marys River so crews can begin work.

The Soo Locks raise and lower ships hauling cargo such as iron ore and coal between Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

The Poe lock is the only one of the four existing locks that can accommodate the largest freighters, which can be up to 1,000 feet long. Shippers have long pushed for construction of a second big lock in case the Poe becomes disabled.

Congress first authorized the project in 1986 but has yet to come

through with money to build it. The new lock is expected to cost about \$490 million.

Three workers die after exposure to toxic fumes

NY NEW YORK — A man, his son and a co-worker hired to clean a putrid dry well at a waste transfer station died when the son fell into a space filled with toxic fumes and the other two went to help him, authorities said.

The son had slipped down a narrow shaft, police said, and his father had grabbed a ladder and climbed down to rescue him while their co-worker followed.

Police identified the victims as Shlomo Dahan, 49, and Harel Dahan, 23, both of Brooklyn, and Rene Francisco Rivas, 52, of Queens.

Dahan family friend Abe Rosenthal said Shlomo Dahan owned a sewer company and his son worked with him.

Child, two adults drown in home swimming pool

SC EASLEY — An 8-year-old child and two adults drowned in a swimming pool at a home in northwestern South Carolina.

The bodies of the boy and his aunt and uncle were reportedly discovered in an Easley pool.

Assistant Pickens County Sheriff Tim Morgan said investigators think the boy was struggling and the adults tried to save him while their 7-year-old son watched. Morgan said deputies don't think any of the victims knew how to swim.

Pickens County Coroner Kandy Kelley says the man was an employee of a business located at the property and had permission to use the pool.

80 arrested in sweep of street gang members

TX HOUSTON — U.S. immigration officials said 80 street gang members were arrested in a five-day sweep through Houston, Beaumont and Corpus Christi.

Federal, state and local officers made the arrests as part of a national initiative targeting transnational gangs, officials said. The sweep also nabbed 36 immigration status violators.

Officials said the suspects have ties to at least 14 groups, including Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), Sureños Trece, Aryan Brotherhood, Latin Kings, La Raza13, Black Disciples, Houston, Tango Blast, Bloods and Crips.

Day care owners charged after child's eyelid bitten

MA FALL RIVER — The owners of a day care center in Fall River have been charged with child endangerment after a 17-month old girl repeatedly bit two children under their care, leaving a 2-year-old with an eyelid torn in half.

WPRI-TV reported that the child was taken to Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, R.I., for emergency surgery. Doctors said she would have permanent disfigurement to the eye lid and her eye lashes would probably not grow back.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



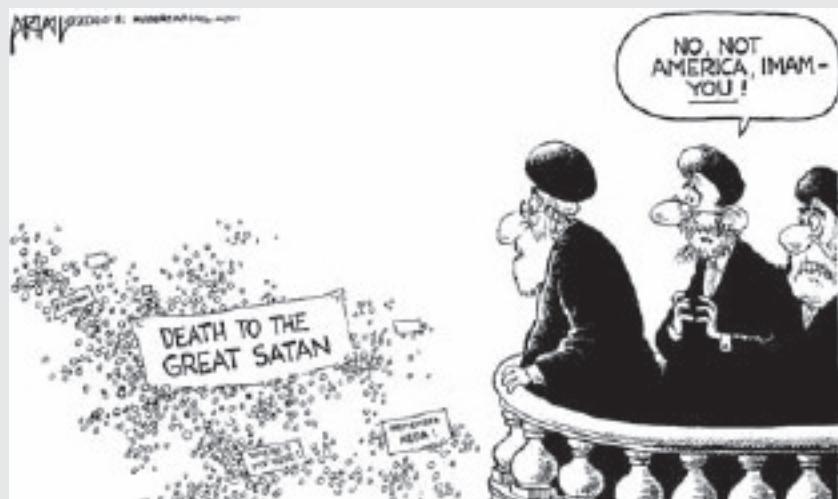
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BRILLIANT TRAGIC SPECTACULAR SOLARIS THRILLING

WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services

Horoscope

Mercury, which rules communication, and Pluto, representative of awesome powers, commemorate this American Independence Day with a rare opposition — the first in our lifetime. The news will pulse with struggles of leadership and odd happenings. Declare your own independence in some way, too. Liberate the dormant strength of your soul.

Holiday Mathis



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 4).

This year, you make your mark by attempting what others would not. Loved ones cannot predict you and therefore find you fascinating. A wave of social activity washes over the next two months. Your energy will be renewed by a special project in September. In November, silly worries evaporate in the happiness of a relationship. Leo and Ariens adore you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You are headed for a strange goal with a person you hardly know. It will be a short journey, but a quality one, largely due to your open mind and adventurous attitude.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

In theory, many things are easy to figure out. What you get this weekend is the chance to test out your ideas. You won't be sure you know it until you do it for real.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You will rewind the tapes of your mind and process old data. You're wiser now. What you experienced as tragic may now seem funny. The sorrows of your past become sources of joy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You are moving into one of the wackier cycles of your life. Stretch the boundaries of your faith in small ways to make room for more possibilities. If you believe in magic, it will happen at some point.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You will be swept into someone else's world.

You enter into this person's spirit and find a new heaven in his or her eyes. Eventually, this will change into more than infatuation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Your money will be well spent, especially on things that you'll have nothing to show for except the memory of an experience. You really don't want an excess of material items anyway.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

If the choice is between staying at home or doing something you've never done before, there's really nothing to deliberate about. Get out there. You won't regret the things you did, only the things you didn't do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You might not be the first one to come up with the idea, but you're quick to act on it. You have a winning attitude, too. You will soon make money from this brilliant endeavor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You'll be around people from whom you'll have something to gain. Don't try to tell your whole story to these people. Instead, focus on one powerful part of it. You are as influential as you are brief.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

In your opinion, there is no such thing as an "overachiever." You will do the most you can do to the best of your ability. What others are doing has no influence over your choices.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Your connection to nature will restore your spirit. Favored activities include hiking, gardening or caring for animals. Also, make an effort to see the sunrise or the sunset.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You'll be engaged in many conversations and it's best to keep them short and sassy. It's easy to labor the point, and also quite boring. Think of your audience and play to them.

Creators Syndicate

SUDOKU

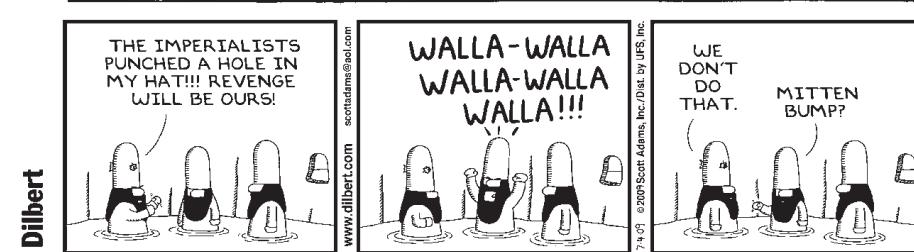
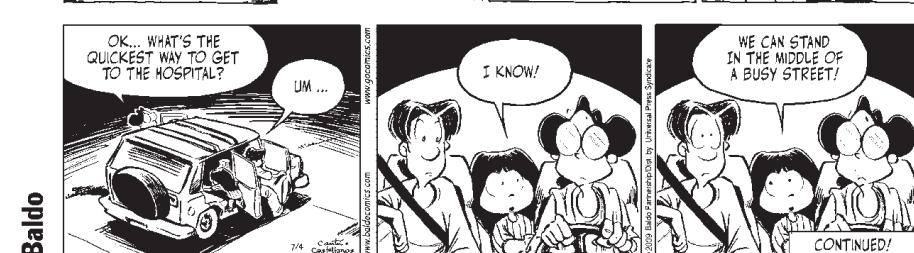
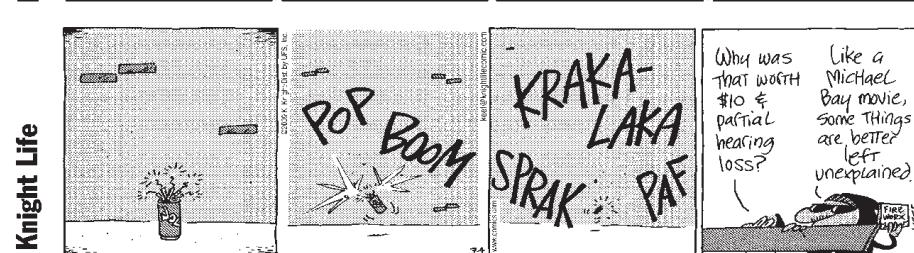
Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's solution

2	7	4	8	1	5	9	3	6
6			4					
3		2		5	6			
4				1	5			
2		7			8	4		
9	4							
1						9		
6					9	5		
3	8	6		1				

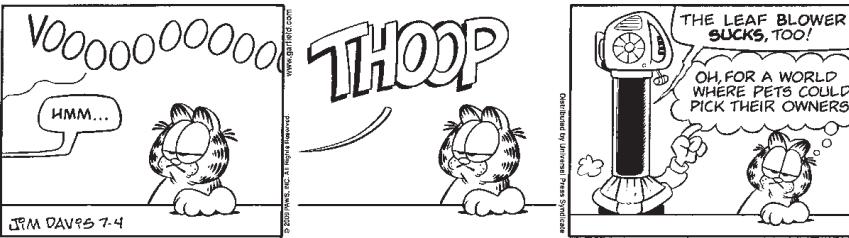
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Frazz



Garfield



Baby Blues



Jump Start



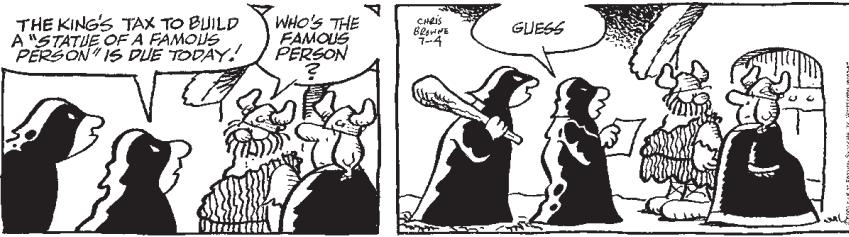
Zits



Red & Rover



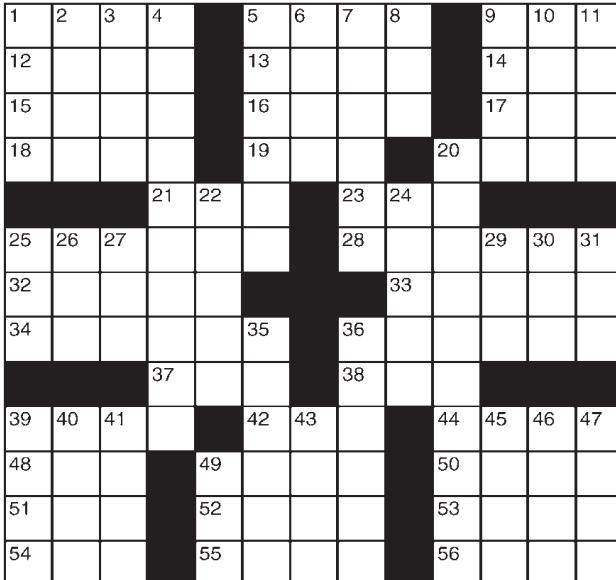
Hagar



Better or Worse



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Riches' opposite
- 5 Summery desserts
- 9 Frenzied
- 12 Sandwich cookie
- 13 Angry
- 14 Leading lady?
- 15 Suitor
- 16 Farm fraction
- 17 Kans. neighbor
- 18 Dumbo's "wings"
- 19 Feathery accessory
- 20 Only
- 21 Nay undoer
- 23 Greek cross
- 25 Bull or bear
- 28 Dormant
- 32 West Indian sorcery
- 33 Zoo howler
- 34 Beat cop's job
- 36 Automatic response
- 37 Bill's partner?
- 38 Lennon's lady
- 39 Satellite receiver
- 42 "Of course!"
- 44 Destroy
- 48 Autumn mo.
- 49 Pop flavor
- 50 Check
- 51 Firmament
- 52 Winged
- 53 Genealogy chart

- 22 Google competitor
- 24 Wan
- 25 Swab the decks
- 26 Lawyers' org.
- 27 Bumped into
- 29 Wet wriggler
- 30 Away from WSW
- 31 Peace, to Caesar
- 35 Chicago university
- 36 Prayer beads
- 39 Teaspoonful, maybe
- 40 Gross
- 41 Eyelid woe
- 43 Verve
- 45 Pianist Peter
- 46 Regimen
- 47 Change for a fin
- 49 Rotating part

Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	D	D	I	K	E	A	L	I	M	O
A	N	A	N	E	R	O	O	V	E	R
F	A	I	R	D	E	A	L	V	A	N
Q	U	I	P			M	I	N	U	S
H	O	U	S	E	M	O	O	N	O	N
O	K	I	E		F	A	I	R	G	A
O	R	R		S	I	D	L	E	N	O
F	A	I	R	P	L	A	Y	S	T	U
R	E	N	E	W	H	E	L	M	F	E
A	C	E	S		F	A	I	R	G	O
T	H	R	U		E	A	S	T	O	W
S	O	D	S		E	A	C	H	M	E

7-4

CRYPTOQUIP

B I T B T A D J A N X Z T S E F T Q X
 R N F D I - A B N G G N G H S D X C T J A
 X C E X X U D M D Z Q X N U D A

G N M D J : " X C D R K E M T R K N R D "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT TOOK MANY YEARS TO FINALLY CORRECT THE MISTAKE, SO I CRIED "IT'S THE END OF AN ERROR!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals V

'Friend' always put on hold

Dear Abby: I often go to the movies with my friend "Valerie." During the movie she puts her phone on mute, but I can still hear when it vibrates. Val acts embarrassed by it, but she never turns the phone off.

As soon as the movie ends, Val will check her phone for the message. (It's never anything that couldn't wait.) Then she returns the call and talks to the caller all the way out of the theater and to her car where we say our goodbyes.

The last time we went to a film, I met her at a cinema miles from where I live, battling rush-hour traffic. When I arrived, she was standing in line with her exercise instructor. They spent the extra hour before the movie began discussing workout techniques, completely ignoring me and the instructor's husband. Val also "had" to place a call to a co-worker while we waited.

Dear Abby



your feelings — are less important than what she impulsively decides to do at the moment.

Under the circumstances, I don't think it would be "confrontational" to tell this woman that your feelings are hurt and why. From where I sit, she has treated

When Valerie calls me, she'll interrupt me in mid-sentence to take a non-emergency call from family. She promises to call me right back, but never does. Abby, I value her friendship, but I'm tired of her rudeness. I'm not good at confrontations. What can I do?

— Second Banana

Dear Second Banana: The relationship you have with Val is not what I would call friendship. Friends enjoy each other's company and enjoy talking with each other. Friends are sensitive to each other's feelings. With each of the actions you have described, Val is demonstrating that you — and

your feelings — are less important than what she impulsively decides to do at the moment.

Under the circumstances, I don't think it would be "confrontational" to tell this woman that your feelings are hurt and why. From where I sit, she has treated

you like nothing more than a seat partner.

Dear Abby: What does it mean when a spouse refers only to himself when talking about things that involve the two of us as a couple? Example: We're building a house, but he never says "we" when talking about it. He'll say, "my house," or "I'm not going to pay that much."

When I mention this to him, he gets angry and says, "You know what I mean." Well, I don't because I always say "we" when referring to financial matters or anything else that pertains to both of us. Am I being petty?

— Team Player In Ohio

Dear Team Player: Yes, if you take this personally. In the grand scheme of things, this isn't worth picking a fight over. And if you're smart, you will choose your battles.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BAIDE



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YAFLE



SHUHRT



FINNTA

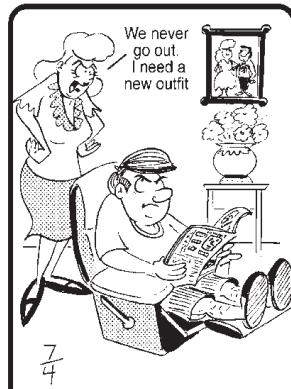


A: HIS " "

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SNARL MOUND GRISLY DAWNED
Answer: What she gave her husband for not dressing up — A DRESSING DOWN

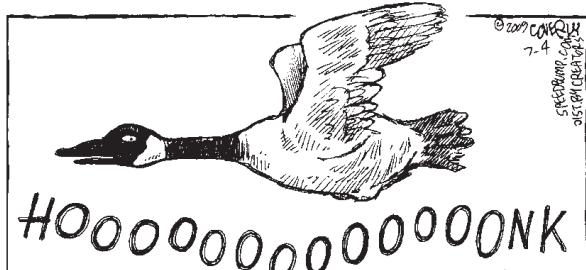
THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



HOW HE DESCRIBED HIS NAGGING WIFE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

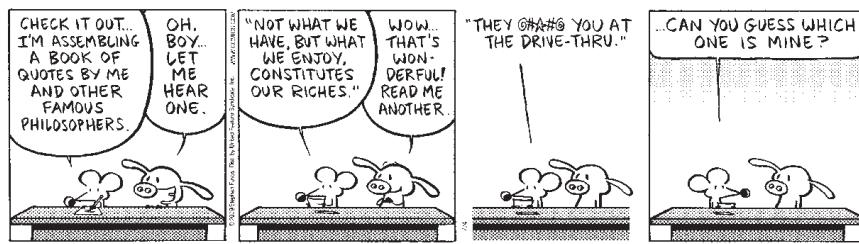
Speed Bump



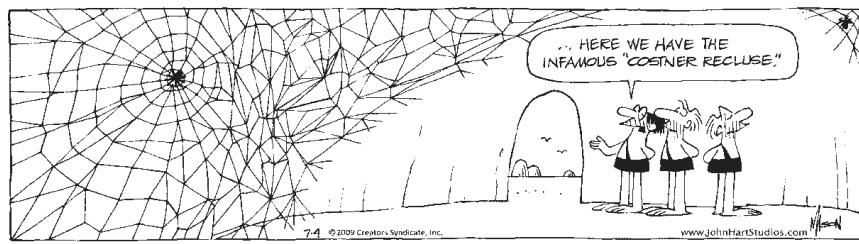
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ART BY COTTER



Pearls Before Swine



B.C.



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Over The Hedge



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Non Sequitur



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Strange Brew



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Announcements 040

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Announcements 040

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Save Gas Shop Online!
 Local Links & Free Ads Over 600 APO/FPO Stores
 Autos To Video Games Merchant Rating System Monthly Photo Contest Online Military Loans
www.oconus.com

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - 1990 Fairlady Z JCI 8/09 3500 firm I have had this car for 6 months and am selling it to my son's engagement. The car is a lot of fun. Twin turbo w/ turbo timer rebuilt engine, only 20000 kilometers on it. Good A/C and heat. Radio with aux port. JCI until Aug/2009 Asking \$3500 Call 0646957394 or email john_niola@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 1994 Black Nissan Largo Van. (2nd owner/1st was Japanese owner). Seats 7 Moon roof. Several roof windows. Keyless entry (clicker). The back seats fold up and away for great storage, cargo or camping (can fit 2 motorcycles, large stroller, and a lot more to do with my furniture and save fees). First row swivels for easy movement in van. Some minor things need attention (i.e. rear wiper blade replacement), but do not affect running or reliability of vehicle. Good leg room. New radiator. \$8,000km. 51000km. Reliable. Runs with a minimum. All fees paid. Recycle fee. JCI due July 2010. Body in great shape, no accidents. Available mid-July. Asking 1650.00. Call Dana 267-6620

Yokosuka - 1995 Nissan Skyline GTST251 4door, 70,000kms, new timing belt and gtr N1 water pump, 5 speed conversion, GRC winch, clutch. Not too stilt. Comes with Nitro titanium catback exhaust and also a custom titanium catless exhaust for track purposes, DMAX carbon fiber hood. HID low beams 6000w legal. HKS evcs boost controller (boost kept at 6.5 bar L7/5.5 currently) FIMC, 1.5way 1st. Factory ECU reflashed to 1.8. Tinted windows. For an academic, to work in auto, manual. Lots of other parts, pictures available if wanted. \$4500 obo. Serious offers only. Like to see this go to a good driver. Buyer may get some extra goodies thrown in for free that I didn't have time to install. Call Chuck at 090 3692 4470

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Yokota, Japan - Shane Co Men's Bracelet Stainless Steel 14K It has never been worn and is in good condition it was just too big for me. (8") Asking \$40 Call 080-6783-5117 or email rmh_00@hotmail.com	Yokota, Japan - 10 Month old kitty needs love my husband is going on Deployment and I don't have a lot of time to give to our cat. She is up to date on shots and has been fixed and microchipped Comes with a bunch of toys, cat condo, scratch in post, cat litter box, plenty of food and treats. Please email ms_lulu_84@yahoo.com we have plenty of pictures	820	820
Yokota, Japan - 3yr Old Female Beagle Very loving and great with kids, house broken, loves to go for long walks. She has been run along side of a bike. Micro chipped and shots up to date as of last week. 4 month old daughter has allergies Asking \$200 Call 6237349658 or email kbernd@armed-svc.com	Zama / SHA / Kanagawa - 3 y/o male tabby cat free to good home. Shots & vaccines up to date and house trained. Better in a house where theres no other pets. Contact Tricia or CJ at DSN PHONE: 267-6329 / 046-407-6329	Photography	830
This is a contract position open to SOFA status applicants. Resumes may be sent to yoshiyasu.Aoki@us.army.mil .	Yokota, Japan - 7 Month Old Great Pyrenees. Beautiful Dog, new housebroken, will be very large when he is about 1 year old, he will be about 31-33 inches tall, 120-150+ lbs. very laid back. Needs very responsible owner that will walk him everyday missing a walk is very bad for your stubby pain \$1600 off base. Daughter has allergies Asking \$1300 Call 6237349658 or email kbernd@armed-svc.com	Miscellaneous	1040
All applicants shall register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) which can be found at www.ccr.gov . Individuals not CCR registered are not eligible for a Government contract.	Yokota, Japan - brand new touch screen 10.4" digital frame brand new never used in Box 1024x768 High Resolution LCD Capture pictures and video store in or simply plug your memory card and play!!! Comes with interchangeable frames - Silver and Black-fits all home decor with Touch screen Technology, photo album memory stores up to 200 images with \$12 MB Internal Memory Copy your photos directly from your digital camera, memory card or PC. Clock, Calendar, Alarm and Programmable On/Off Wireless and Blue Tooth Compatibility Make an offer! Call 702-946-5985 or email liezel121603@yahoo.com	Vacation Resort for \$950/week I'm in Iraq and cannot stay in our timeshare this year. Don't stay at a Hotel for \$150/night. Stay in a 2bed+livingroom in Myrtle Beach Or pay the \$150 exchange fee and stay anywhere around the world for a v i d Wayne100@yahoo.com	Atsugi - Late spring cleaning listing rummage sale. In Step bike trailer/chariot w/ new once and a half new condition \$75 fine. Price. Price rainforest themed baby bouncer in like new condition, asking \$25. Fender Statoaster Caster blue made in Mexico right handed guitar in brand new condition (and never played) asking \$400. I bought the guitar for spouse for Christmas when she stated she wanted to play myself and I bought the wrong hand guitar, comes with soft carry case. Do you speak Spanish and seeking Spanish princess books for your favorite princess? Disney Mi Version de la historia la Cenicienta y La Madrastra still wrapped in package asking \$10.00. Brand new in like new condition bought out in town, will keep your little one entertained for hours! asking \$50. Please contact Ann 090-7220-4952 for inquiries.

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The screenshot shows the homepage of Fort Lewis Housing. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Back, Forward, Stop, Home, Help, and Exit. Below that is a banner for "Fort Lewis Housing" with the URL "http://www.fortlewhousing.com". The main content area has several sections: "Home Buyers Guide", "Homes for Sale", "VA Mortgages", "Testimonials", "Fort Lewis Info", "Maps", "Govt Repos", "Why Buyer's Agent?", and "Contact Us". A large "CALL 1-360-491-6500" button is prominently displayed at the bottom of the section.

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-Tennis: Wimbledon, men's singles semifinals, Andy Roddick vs. Andy Murray and Roger Federer vs. Tommy Haas.

AFN-Sports, 8 a.m.-MLB: Seattle at Boston.

AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.-Auto racing: NASCAR Nationwide Subway Jalapeno 250.

AFN-PCP, 11 a.m.-MLB: Baltimore at L.A. Angels.

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.-MLB: L.A. Dodgers at San Diego.

AFN-Xtra, 11:30 a.m.-MLB: Houston at San Francisco (joined in progress).

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.-MLB: Tampa Bay at Texas (ddm).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.-Tennis: Wimbledon, women's singles championship, Venus Williams vs. Serena Williams.

Sunday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.-MLB: St. Louis at Cincinnati.

AFN-Xtra, 2 a.m.-MLB: Toronto at N.Y. Yankees.

AFN-Atlantic, 5 a.m.-MLB: Detroit at Minnesota.

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-MLB: N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia.

AFN-Xtra, 5 a.m.-MLB: L.A. Dodgers at San Diego.

AFN-Atlantic, 8 a.m.-MLS: D.C. at Columbus.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-MLB: Arizona at Colorado.

AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.-Auto racing: NASCAR Sprint Cup Coke Zero 400.

AFN-Atlantic, 10 a.m.-MLB: Baltimore at L.A. Angels.

AFN-Xtra, 1 p.m.-MLB: Atlanta at Washington (ddm).

AFN-Xtra, 4 p.m.-MLS: D.C. at Columbus (ddm).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-Cycling: Tour de France, Stage 1, Monaco (ddm).

AFN-Xtra, 6 p.m.-MLB: Chicago White Sox at Kansas City (ddm).

AFN-Xtra, 9 p.m.-MLB: Tampa Bay at Texas (ddm).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.-Tennis: Wimbledon, men's singles championship, Andy Roddick or Andy Murray vs. Roger Federer or Tommy Haas.

AFN-Xtra, midnight-Soccer: 20th CONCACAF Gold Cup, Grenada vs. U.S. (ddm).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (ddm) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	6	2	.750	—
Chicago	6	3	.667	½
Washington	5	3	.625	1
Connecticut	4	3	.571	1½
Atlanta	4	6	.400	3
Detroit	2	5	.286	3½
New York	2	6	.250	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	7	3	.700	—
Phoenix	7	4	.636	½
Seattle	4	6	.400	3
San Antonio	3	4	.429	2½
Los Angeles	3	5	.375	3
Sacramento	1	8	.111	5½

Tuesday's games

Minnesota 91, Atlanta 85
Chicago 74, Sacramento 72
Washington 84, San Antonio 82

Wednesday's games

Phoenix 93, Seattle 81
Thursday's games
Connecticut at Indiana
Detroit at New York
Sacramento at Minnesota

Boxing

Fight schedule

July 4

At Vienna, France, Anselmo Moreno, Panama, vs. Mahyari Monshipour, France, 12, for Moreno's WBA bantamweight title.

July 10

At The Arena, Philadelphia, Matt Godfrey, Providence, R.I., vs. Shawn Hawk, Sioux Falls, S.D., 10, for Godfrey's WABF and SNBC cruiserweight titles; Shaun George, Brooklyn, N.Y., vs. Chris Henry, Houston, 10, light heavyweights.

July 11

At Nuerberg, Germany, Felix Sturm, Germany, vs. Kheven Govor, Germany, 12, for Sturm's WBA middleweight title; Sebastian Zbik, Germany, vs. Domenico Spada, Italy, 12, for the interim WBC middleweight title.

At Kempton Park, South Africa, Philip Ndou, South Africa, vs. Lovemore Ndou, Australia, 12, IBO welterweight elimination bout; Simpiwe Vetkeywa, South Africa, vs. Eric Barcelona, Philippines, 12, for the vacant IBO bantamweight title.

At BankAtlantic Center, Sunrise, Fla., Joseph Agbeko, Bronx, N.Y., vs. Vic Darchinyan, Australia, 12, for Agbeko's IBF bantamweight title; Yuri Romanov, Belarus, vs. Fernando Angulo, Venezuela, 12, for the vacant IBF lightweight title; Steve Cunningham, Philadelphia, vs. Wayne Braithwaite, Brooklyn, N.Y., 12, IBF cruiserweight title eliminator; Antonio DeMarco, Mexico, vs. Anges Adjaho, Geneva, N.Y., 10, lightweights.

Soccer

CONCACAF Gold Cup

FIRST ROUND

Top two in each group, two best third-place teams advance to quarterfinals

GROUP A					
W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	0	0	0	0	0
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0
El Salvador	0	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0

Friday, July 3
At Carson, Calif.

Canada vs. Jamaica

Costa Rica vs. El Salvador

Tuesday, July 7
At Columbus, Ohio

Jamaica vs. Costa Rica

El Salvador vs. Canada

Friday, July 10
At Miami

Costa Rica vs. Canada

El Salvador vs. Jamaica

GROUP B					
W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Grenada	0	0	0	0	0
Haiti	0	0	0	0	0
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	0	0

Saturday, July 4
At Seattle

Honduras vs. Haiti

Grenada at United States

Wednesday, July 8
At Washington

Haiti vs. Grenada

Honduras at United States

Saturday, July 11
At Foxborough, Mass.

Haiti at United States

Honduras vs. Grenada

GROUP C					
W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Guadeloupe	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0
Nicaragua	0	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	0	0	0

Sunday, July 5
At Oakland, Calif.

Panama vs. Guadeloupe

Nicaragua vs. Mexico

Thursday, July 9
At Houston

Guadeloupe vs. Nicaragua

Mexico vs. Panama

Sunday, July 12
At Glendale, Ariz.

Panama vs. Nicaragua

Mexico vs. Guadeloupe

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
D.C.	5	3	8	23	25	24
Columbus	5	3	7	22	21	25
Toronto FC	6	6	4	22	21	25
Chicago	5	3	6	21	21	19
Kansas City	5	5	4	19	19	17
New England	4	4	4	16	15	20
New York	2	12	4	10	14	28

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Houston	8	3	2	20	10	10
Chivas USA	8	4	3	27	19	12
Seattle	6	3	7	25	24	15
Colorado	5	3	6	21	21	18
Real Salt Lake	5	6	4	19	22	17
Los Angeles	3	3	9	18	17	18
FC Dallas	3	7	4	14	18	24
San Jose	3	8	3	12	17	27

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday's game

San Jose at Real Salt Lake

Saturday's games

D.C. United at Columbus

Chicago at Colorado

Houston at Kansas City

New York at FC Dallas

New England at Los Angeles

WPS

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	10	1	4	34	23	5
Boston	5	4	3	18	14	13
Saint Louis	5	5	2	17	11	12
Washington	4	4	5	16	18	21
Chicago	3	6	5	14	10	16
Sky Blue FC	3	6	3	12	8	11
FC Gold Pride	3	6	3	12	11	17

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games

Chicago 2, Washington 1

Saturday's games

Boston at Sky Blue FC

Sunday's games

Los Angeles at Washington

Saint Louis at FC Gold Pride

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

MLB—Suspended Kansas City C Miguel Olivo one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for making contact with the umpire in a June 27 game on Pittsburgh.

American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with OF Raymond Fuentes, OF Jeremy Hazelbaker, OF Shannon Wilkerson, C Michael Thomas and 1B Chris McGuiness and assigned Fuentes to the Red Sox (GLC).

NEW YORK YANKEES

Optioned INF Ramiro Pena to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Agreed to terms with RHP Connor Hoehn and RHP Chris Mederos.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS—Recalled INF Drew Sutton from Louisville (IL). Optioned RHP Jared Burton to Louisville.

COLORADO ROCKIES

Reinstated C Yorvit Torrealba from the MLB restricted list. Designated C Paul Phillips for assignment.

HOUSTON ASTROS

Optioned INF Jarret Hopyan from Texas.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

Released OF Craig Monroe.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Recalled INF Jarret Hopyan from Memphis (PCL).

WORCESTER BRAVES

Optioned RHP Clayton Mortensen to Memphis.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Optioned OF Elijah Dukes to Syracuse (IL).

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

BOSTON CELTICS—Announced G Eddie House declined to exercise his option for free agency.

A WEEKLY LOOK

RACING STRIPES AT MOTORSPORTS

Sprint Cup driver remains optimistic in disappointing season

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

Jamie McMurray could hardly wait to get the 2009 NASCAR Sprint Cup season going.

After all, he closed out last year with five top-10 finishes in the last six races, including three straight third-place runs to end the season.

But after a 33rd-place showing in the No. 26 Roush Fenway Racing Ford at New Hampshire on Sunday, McMurray finds himself a disappointing 22nd in the season standings. Heading into Saturday's race at Daytona — where the last of his two Cup wins came in July 2007 — McMurray has just three top-10s this year with his best finish a seventh-place at Richmond.

"At the beginning of the season, we probably ran a little bit better than what we are right now," McMurray said. "We ended last year with those three third-place finishes and started the year off qualifying really well, and we actually raced real well, (but) had flat tires, a transmission break and other stuff."

"We haven't run that bad, we just haven't been stellar. And some of that has been circumstantial. I believe we've had a little bit better car than where we've finished."

Teammates Carl Edwards, Greg Biffle and Matt Kenseth are all among the top 12 and appear headed for berths in the Chase for the championship, while McMurray and David Ragan, 30th in the points, continue to struggle.

McMurray said any problems he and Ragan have are not from a



JIM COLE/AP

Jamie McMurray slams into the wall during the NASCAR Sprint Cup series Lenox Industrial Tools 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H., on Sunday. McMurray had five top-10 finishes in the last six races of the 2008 season, but this year has not been nearly as successful. McMurray has only three top-10s this season, with his best finish a seventh-place at Richmond.

lack of team communication.

"They share everything," he said. "Anything that any engineer, crew chief or driver wants from another team is there. It's just that it doesn't always work for you."

"I feel like Matt and I share the most. If we have a weekend where we've tried a lot of things and it hasn't worked and Matt has a different setup, I would feel very confident putting that in. And Matt is the same way towards me."

But Kenseth, who started the year with victories at Daytona and California, is 10th in the points and McMurray is all but out of the race for the Chase.

"Our cars still drive pretty good, but it's just that it's so much closer this year than what it even was last year," McMurray said. "And I think by our team not qualifying as well as it has, that's hurt us a little bit. But it doesn't take much to make your car better."

"I don't think that we need to reinvent the wheel. I think it's just fine-tuning. Racing goes in spurts. Last year when we were qualifying so well and we were finishing in the top three the last few races, we didn't do anything different than we did the rest of the season or what we're doing right now. It's just the cautions kind of fell your way and you just kind of hit on something each

weekend."

McMurray is hoping that type of magic will happen again, and soon.

Roush Fenway has to cut down to four Cup cars next season to meet NASCAR's rules and McMurray knows he could be the odd man out.

But after spending most of the 2005 season — his last year with Chip Ganassi's team — dealing with the rumor mill, McMurray is keeping his future plans to himself.

"In 2005, I was like, 'This is great, everybody is talking about me,' I found out there's no advantage of being involved in all of that," he said. "There's nothing to

be gained by that."

Whatever happens, McMurray insists he is enjoying racing more than ever at 33.

"Honestly, I probably enjoy racing now more than I ever have," he said. "I don't know that I've become a better driver. But with experience, you make wiser decisions and you learn certain things about racetracks. And I enjoy the stuff off the track, like sponsor appearances and talking with fans, more than I did when I first got into this."

One reason he is enjoying himself, despite the lack of results, is being back together with crew chief Donnie Wingo, who joined the team over the winter.

"That transition's been effortless and Donnie's fit right in," McMurray said. "I worked with him for four years at Ganassi. As long as when the day's over, you feel like the engineer and the crew chief did everything that they could, that's satisfactory. Sometimes, you get the result and sometimes you don't."

With just nine races remaining before the start of the Chase, McMurray — 316 points behind 12th-place Juan Pablo Montoya — knows his chances of making NASCAR's postseason aren't very good. But he's trying to stay optimistic.

"I really feel like this is the best team I've ever been with," he said. "We have a really, really solid group of guys and I think that anything is possible."

"If you finish in the top five, the amount of points you accumulate, it's incredible. I don't think until you're mathematically eliminated, you never give up."

FAST FACTS

SPRINT CUP

**Race 18: Coke Zero 400
at Daytona International Speedway
9 a.m. Sunday, Japan & Korea, AFN-Xtra**



Driver to watch: With nine races before the field is set, Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 285 points behind the Chase for the championship cutoff. Earnhardt needs to make a move now.

DRIVER STANDINGS

Through 17 of 36 races

1. Tony Stewart	2524
2. Jeff Gordon	2455
3. Jimmie Johnson	2355
4. Kurt Busch	2254
5. Carl Edwards	2157
6. Denny Hamlin	2132
7. Ryan Newman	2127
8. Kyle Busch	2108
9. Greg Biffle	2106
10. Matt Kenseth	2054
11. Mark Martin	2052
12. Juan Montoya	2049
13. Kasey Kahne	2048
14. David Reutimann	2037
15. Clint Bowyer	1955
16. Jeff Burton	1941
17. Brian Vickers	1852
18. Marcos Ambrose	1798
19. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	1764
20. Casey Mears	1747
21. Joey Logano	1741
22. Jamie McMurray	1733
23. Elliott Sadler	1660
24. Martin Truex Jr.	1642
25. Sam Hornish Jr.	1638

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Subway Jalapeno 250 at Daytona Beach, Fla. (9 a.m. Saturday, AFN-Xtra).

Next race: Dollar General 300, July 10, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Driver Standings

1. Kyle Busch	2,581
2. Carl Edwards	2,419
3. Brad Keselowski	2,338
4. Jason Leffler	2,261

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS

Next race: Built Ford Tough 225, July 18, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, Ky.

Last race: Ron Hornaday raced to his second straight victory and third of the season at Memphis Motorsports Park.

Driver Standings

1. Ron Hornaday Jr.	1,713
2. Matt Crafton	1,637
3. Mike Skinner	1,579

FORMULA ONE

Next race: German Grand Prix, July 12, Nuerburgring, Hockenheim, Germany.

Last race: Sebastian Vettel won the British Grand Prix on June 21 for his second victory of the year, beating Red Bull teammate Mark Webber by 15.1 seconds.

Driver Standings

1. Jenson Button	64
2. Rubens Barrichello	41
3. Sebastian Vettel	39

INDYCAR SERIES

This week: Camping World Grand Prix at Watkins Glen, N.Y. (Delayed, 11 p.m. Monday, AFN-Xtra).

Next race: Honda Indy Toronto, July 12, Toronto.

Driver Standings

1. Dario Franchitti	279
2. Scott Dixon	278
3. Ryan Briscoe	253

NHRA

Next event: Mopar Mile-High NHRA at Morrison, Colo.

Last event: Larry Dixon raced to his fourth Top Fuel victory of the season, beating Brandon Bernstein in Norwalk, Ohio.

Driver Standings

1. Antron Brown	938
2. Larry Dixon	885
3. Tony Schumacher	882

Funny car

1. Ashley Force Hood	872
2. Tony Pedregon	854
3. Ron Capps	847

Pro stock

1. Jeg Coughlin	1,072
2. Mike Edwards	1,004
3. Jason Line	896

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WWW.STRIPEZ.COM/RACING

NASCAR

Mayfield misses cut to enter car at Daytona

Judge issues injunction lifting drug suspension, but driver still without ride

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeremy Mayfield missed the deadline to enter this weekend's race after successfully fighting NASCAR to get back behind the wheel following a failed random drug test.

His only hope for participating in Saturday night's race at Daytona International Speedway is as a relief driver, a change NASCAR must approve.

"That's something that's at the discretion of the series director," said John Darby, director of the Sprint Cup Series.

As the cars fired their engines Thursday afternoon for the first practice session of the weekend, the Mayfield watch ended roughly 24 hours after a federal judge lifted the indefinite suspension and cleared him to race at Daytona.

Mayfield's absence calmed at least one driver, who was admittedly uncomfortable driving against Mayfield now that NASCAR said he tested positive for

methamphetamine in a urine sample collected May 1.

"A federal judge releasing someone to drive without clarifying everything, that's not cool," said Ryan Newman, one of the most vocal drivers about drug testing since Mayfield's suspension. "People make mistakes. I hope the judge didn't make one."

Mayfield sued NASCAR over the suspension, which covered his roles as owner and driver of the No. 41 Mayfield Motorsports Toyota. On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Graham Mullen issued a temporary injunction based on the argument that NASCAR's testing system is flawed.

Although Mayfield said after the ruling that he intended to travel to Daytona, he was unsure whether he'd be able to compete because of the short turnaround.

He's admittedly cash-strapped, revealing in an affidavit last week that since his suspension on May 9 he's had to lay off 10 employees, borrow money from family and sell personal assets to cover his living expenses. Triad Racing

Technologies also is suing Mayfield for more than \$86,000 he allegedly owes the company for parts, pieces and chassis work.

The outstanding balance would make it difficult for him to purchase a motor to use in the No. 41, and he also would have had to pay a \$5,005 late entry fee to bring his own car to Daytona.

His other option was finding a team owner willing to give him a ride. Ten teams were trying to qualify for eight open spots in Saturday night's race, but only a handful likely would consider making a driver change to accommodate Mayfield.

Of them, Tommy Baldwin, Larry Gunselman, Joe Nemecsek and Phil Parsons said they weren't interested.

"Whether he's right, wrong or different right now, he's marked," said Tommy Baldwin, a crew chief for Mayfield in 2007. "And that's going to hurt him probably for the rest of his career."

Driving Gunselman's No. 64 was believed to be Mayfield's best opportunity at Daytona, but Gun-

selman said Southeastern-based discount store Fred's, which signed on to sponsor the car this weekend, did not want to associate itself with Mayfield.

"They probably would choose not to be involved at this particular time," said Gunselman, who added that he had no conversations with Mayfield about replacing Mike Wallace in the car.

"For being a small, startup team that's struggled, I have to consider every potential scenario for our race team," Gunselman said. "Everybody's feelings are kind of sensitive at the moment, and I'd have to be very aware of everything involved."

Gunselman, who has no sponsor lined up for next week in Chicago, said he'd be willing to work with Mayfield going forward.

"I've been involved in NASCAR for a long time, and I'm hoping all parties can put this thing behind them and move forward in a positive manner," he said. "If I can help mediate that or be somehow involved in that, that would be wonderful."



CHUCK BURTON/AP

NASCAR driver Jeremy Mayfield leaves the federal courthouse in Charlotte, N.C., after a hearing on Wednesday. A judge lifted Mayfield's suspension by NASCAR, saying the driver should be allowed to race.

Sports briefs

Artest open to helping Kobe or LeBron win title

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — If LeBron James or Kobe Bryant are looking for a little help, Ron Artest is taking calls.

The Houston Rockets star forward, an unrestricted free agent, will consider a team's chances of winning an NBA championship when deciding where he'll bring his skills next season, his agent says.

David Bauman said Wednesday that his client would like to return to Houston, but Artest would also think about signing with a contending team — and that might rule out the Rockets if Yao Ming's broken left foot keeps him out for the season.

Bauman wouldn't say which teams have contacted him about Artest. But he said he would expect Artest to talk to James and Bryant if the Cleveland Cavaliers or Los Angeles were interested in him.

"All the superstars are very savvy and great recruiters," Bauman said. "The superstars are sometimes even better recruiters than the general managers or their staffs. Between Kobe and Ron or LeBron and Ron, there are always conversations that occur. I think I'll just leave it at that at this point."

The Plain Dealer of Cleveland, citing anonymous sources, reported Wednesday that James and Artest met Tuesday in Los Angeles. James, the league MVP, was in Los Angeles on Sunday for the BET awards. Bauman de-

clined to comment on the report.

Cleveland would be an intriguing option, where Artest could round out a formidable trio with James and Shaquille O'Neal.

Cavs coach Mike Brown was an assistant at Indiana when Artest was there in 2003-04. The two developed a good relationship, and it was Brown who chased Artest into the seats when the sometimes volatile forward went after a Detroit fan in Auburn Hills, Mich., during the infamous brawl there in '04.

Another enticing possibility is the NBA champion Lakers, who may lose free agent swingman Trevor Ariza.

Florida judge won't release Stallworth crash video

MIAMI — A judge refused Thursday to release surveillance video depicting the moment a car driven by Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte' Stallworth struck and killed a pedestrian in a drunk-driving crash.

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Dennis Murphy said the privacy interests of the family of victim Mario Reyes outweighed the public's right to view the video. Several news organizations, including The Associated Press, made public records requests seeking release of the video.

"This is akin to autopsy photographs," Murphy said at a hearing, adding that the video would remain sealed "for the foreseeable future as far as I'm concerned."

Prosecutors said the video, recorded by a Florida Power &

Light camera, shows Reyes running across MacArthur Causeway on March 14 and being struck by Stallworth's 2005 Bentley luxury car. On a recorded 911 call, Stallworth said that Reyes "came out of nowhere" before the crash.

LPGA's Farr tourney in jeopardy for 26th year

SYLVANIA, Ohio — The Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic might be the next LPGA tournament to miss the cut. The Farr, named for the actor who played a reluctant corporal on the TV series "M.A.S.H.," is being played for the 25th, and possibly last, time at Highland Meadows Golf Club in suburban Toledo.

"I don't know what the intricate details are. They'll have to figure those out," Jamie Farr said Wednesday before hurrying out to play in the pro-am. "We have a 50-50 chance of being here next year."

The Farr's \$1.4 million purse is among the smallest on the LPGA tour. In tough economic times, tournament officials have pared between \$450,000 and \$500,000 this year from an already barebones budget. The contract with the title sponsor expires after this tournament.

The LPGA had 34 events last year and that number is falling.

Organizers of the two-year-old Kapalua LPGA Classic in Hawaii announced Tuesday that financial problems would cause them to pull out of the last four years of their contract with the tour.

LPGA officials threatened to pursue "legal remedies."

The Corning Classic in Corning, N.Y., ended in May after 31 years when its title sponsor called it quits. Along with the Farr, the Michelob Ultra Open's future in Williamsburg, Va., is uncertain.

Defending champ Creamer pulls out of Farr

SYLVANIA, Ohio — Defending champion Paula Creamer withdrew from the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic because of an injured left thumb.

Creamer was scheduled to tee off Thursday morning along with five-time Farr winner Se Ri Pak and In-Kyung Kim. But Creamer notified tournament director Judd Silverman that she was pulling out of the tournament.

Creamer also withdrew from last week's LPGA tournament in Pittsford, N.Y., because of the injury. She saw a doctor Monday in suburban Toledo and received a cortisone shot. Unable to play a practice round, she played in the pro-am Wednesday.

Creamer hopes to play in next week's U.S. Women's Open at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pa.

Cincinnati checking Stephenson's eligibility

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati coach Mick Cronin sounded confident Wednesday that New York prep star Lance Stephenson will emerge from his court case unscathed later this month.

Stephenson signed with Cincinnati, one of the schools still interested in him following his latest off-court problems. He is scheduled for trial later this month on a misdemeanor sexual abuse charge.

Numerous schools backed off the 6-foot-6 guard from Lincoln High School in Brooklyn following his arrest on Oct. 3. He is accused of fondling and threatening a student at the school.

Cronin, who is trying to rebuild the Bearcats basketball program, said he had no worries about Stephenson's reputation.

"I'm interested in two things in every recruit we bring in: Does he play hard and does he want to win?" Cronin said. "The answer with Lance Stephenson is a huge yes and a huge yes."

It's unclear whether he will be eligible to play next season. There are questions about his eligibility after he participated in a "Born Ready" documentary during his junior year at high school.

US team to wear Polo again at Olympic ceremonies

DENVER — The U.S. Olympic team will stay with the Polo look for the opening and closing ceremonies in Vancouver and

The U.S. Olympic Committee announced Thursday it was renewing its apparel deal with Ralph Lauren. The 2010 uniforms will be unveiled later this year.

NHL free agency roundup

Hossa shuns Cup quest for Chicago's cash

Blackhawks let Havlat go to Wild, who lost Gaborik to Rangers

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

Just when the slowing economy figured to put a crimp in spending for NHL free agents, Marian Hossa hit the open market again.

And instead of taking a discount on a one-year deal to take a shot at a Stanley Cup title, Hossa cashed in a megadeal with the up-and-coming Chicago Blackhawks on Wednesday.

A few hours after the NHL free-agent season was open for business, the Blackhawks said goodbye to Martin Havlat and set their sights on Hossa. It didn't take long to come to terms on a 12-year, \$62.8 million contract.

It was the headline move on a typically busy first day of free-agent shopping.

The New York Rangers landed the second-biggest prize of the day, signing high-scoring forward Marian Gaborik away from the Minnesota Wild with a five-year, \$37.5 million contract. That deal came together once the Rangers couldn't complete a trade with the Ottawa Senators for disgruntled forward Dany Heatley.

Heatley remained in limbo. He was due a \$4 million bonus payment from whatever team he was a member of at midnight.

The NHL salary cap rose only \$100,000 from last season to \$56.8 million. With concerns that the financial crisis could strike the league harder this season, and force the 2010-11 cap to drop, the belief was teams would be more cautious about entering into long-term deals.

The Blackhawks didn't seem too concerned, and will absorb a \$5.23 million cap hit on Hossa's contract.

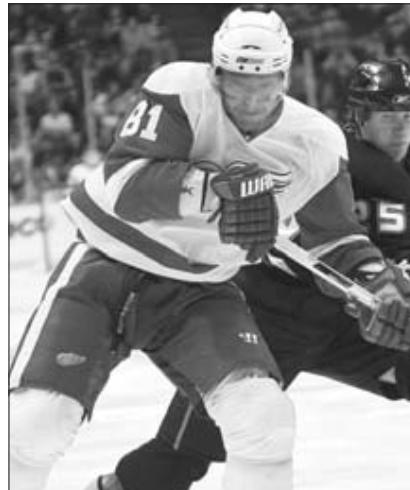
Chicago kept spending on Thursday, signing John Madden, a center who has spent his entire 10-year career with the New Jersey Devils.

Madden helped the Devils make the playoffs the last nine seasons, including Stanley Cup titles in 2000 and 2003. A year ago, he had 16 assists and seven goals in 76 games.

"We haven't used the [unrestricted free-agent market] that often because it's when you get the most onerous contracts with the most unfavorable term," San Jose Sharks general manager Doug Wilson said. "I've used the term 'irrational exuberance' that takes place at this time of year."

Hossa left the Eastern Conference champion Pittsburgh Penguins last summer to join the defending champion Detroit Red Wings — saying he believed that gave him the best chance to win the Stanley Cup. But the Penguins dethroned the Red Wings last month, leaving Hossa in second place again.

"Now I don't have to worry about dealing with it year to year. I'm set for 12 years. That will make it easier and I can focus on hockey,"



MARK AVERY/AP

Right wing Marian Hossa left the Detroit Red Wings for Chicago when the Blackhawks offered the four-time All-Star a 12-year contract worth more than \$68 million.

Hossa said.

Hossa is joining the Blackhawks, his fourth team since 2008, and their stable of young stars headlined by Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane.

With Hossa in place in Chicago, Havlat signed a six-year deal with Minnesota late Wednesday to replace Gaborik. The Blackhawks also let go of goalie Nikolai Khabibulin, who signed a four-year deal with the Edmonton Oilers.

"We were just unable to get a deal done with Marty," Chicago general manager Dale Tallon said. "It was 11:01 and we decided to go in a different direction. The important thing we're doing is to keep the core together. So this deal was important to get done at this time to help us in the future solidify that core group. ... I wish Marty and Nik all the best. We're turning the page and moving forward."

The action got started even before noon (EDT), when teams were first allowed to negotiate with free agents from other teams.

The Vancouver Canucks finally reached matched deals to retain identical twins Henrik and Daniel Sedin — the team's leading scorers last season with 82 points.

They each signed five-year, \$30.5 million contracts.

Defenseman Mattias Ohlund left the Canucks after 11 seasons to sign a seven-year contract with the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The Swede, 32, played in 770 games with the Canucks and is the team's career leader in goals by a defenseman with 93. The Sedins are now the longest-tenured players with Vancouver.

The Montreal Canadiens were busy for a second straight day, signing former Calgary Flames forward Mike Cammalleri to a five-year, \$30 million deal, and defensemen Jaroslav Spacek and Hal Gill. Spacek left the Buffalo Sabres for a three-year, \$11.5 million contract, and Gill was lured away from the Penguins by a two-year contract worth \$4.5 million.

The Canadiens completed their spending binge by nabbing forward Brian Gionta from the New Jersey Devils with a five-year, \$25 million contract.

Combined with Tuesday's six-player trade that brought center Scott Gomez to the Canadiens from the New York Rangers, Montreal is on the hook for contracts worth \$107.8 million. Gomez, a former teammate of Gionta with New Jersey, has five years left on his deal with a cap charge of \$7.35 million per season.

However, the Canadiens didn't retain defenseman Mike Komisarek, who signed a five-year, \$22.5 million deal with the archrival Toronto Maple Leafs.

Toronto also added some much-needed toughness by agreeing to terms with former Rangers enforcer Colton Orr on a four-year, \$4 million deal.

New York wasted little time in replacing him with former Washington Capitals forward Donald Brashear, the NHL's most-feared fighter.

In other moves:

■ Dallas Stars defenseman Scott Niedermayer made his return to the Anaheim Ducks official by agreeing to a one-year, \$6 million deal plus bonuses.

■ The Florida Panthers reached a six-year contract extension with young forward David Booth, who was a restricted free agent, and inked former New Jersey Devils goalie Scott Clemmensen to a three-year deal.

■ The New York Islanders pried goalie Dwayne Roloson, 39, away from the Edmonton Oilers, giving them an experienced backup who could step into the top spot if Rick DiPietro is still injured. Roloson received a two-year, \$5 million contract.

■ Steve Begin left Dallas for the Boston Bruins.

■ Forward Erik Cole re-signed with the Carolina Hurricanes for two years and \$5.8 million.

■ Defenseman Andy Greene stayed with New Jersey, signing a two-year contract worth \$1.475 million. Forward Mike Rupp left the Devils and agreed to a two-year, \$1.6 million contract with Pittsburgh.

NHL scoreboard

Wednesday's deals

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Signed C Erik Christensen to one-year contract extension and D Scott Niedermayer to a one-year contract.

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Acquired D Pavel Kubina and F Tim Stapleton from the Toronto Maple Leafs for D Garnet Exelby and F Colin Stuart.

BUFFALO SABRES—Agreed to terms with D Steve Montador on a two-year contract.

BOSTON BRUINS—Signed F Byron Bitz to a multiyear contract and C Steve Begin to a one-year contract.

CAROLINA HURRICANES—Agreed to terms with F Erik Cole on a two-year contract.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Signed RW Marian Hossa to a 12-year contract, C Tomáš Kopecký to a two-year contract and F John Madden to a one-year contract.

COLORADO AVALANCHE—Signed G Craig Anderson to a two-year contract.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Signed D Brent Regner and C Samuel Pahlsson to three-year contracts and G Mathieu Garon to a two-year contract.

EDMONTON OILERS—Signed G Nikolai Khabibulin to a four-year contract. Re-signed D Jason Strudwick to a one-year contract.

FLORIDA PANTHERS—Re-signed F Radek Dvorak to a two-year contract, F David Booth to a six-year contract and G Scott Clemmensen to a three-year contract.

MINNESOTA WILD—Signed D Greg Zanon to a three-year contract and F Martin Havlat to a six-year contract.

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Signed C Mike Cammalleri and D Hal Gill to one-year contracts, F Brian Gionta to a five-year contract and D Jaroslav Spacek to a three-year contract.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Re-signed F Steve Sullivan and F Joel Ward to two-year contracts.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Re-signed D Andy Greene to a two-year contract.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Signed G Dwayne Roloson to a two-year contract.

NEW YORK RANGERS—Signed F Marian Gaborik to a five-year contract. Agreed to terms with F Donald Brashear on a two-year contract.

OTTAWA SENATORS—Signed C Martin St. Pierre, G Mike Brodeur and RW Erik Condra to one-year contracts. Re-signed F Chris Neil to a four-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS—Agreed to terms with G Brian Boucher on a two-year contract and F Ian Laperrière on a three-year contract.

PHOENIX COYOTES—Signed C Vern Fiddler and G Jason LaBarbera to two-year contracts.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Signed F Mike Rupp to a two-year contract. Signed D Brian Strait to a three-year.

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Signed G Ty Conklin to a two-year contract.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Signed D Mattias Ohlund and D Matt Walker to multiyear contracts. Re-signed D Lukas Krajicek to a one-year contract.

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS—Agreed to terms with F Colton Orr on a four-year contract. Signed D Mike Komisarek to a five-year contract.

VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Signed LW Daniel Sedin and C Henrik Sedin to five-year contract extensions.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Signed RW Mike Knuble to a two-year contract.

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STARS AND STRIPES



Wimbledon

Williamses to meet in eighth Slam final

By STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England—Venus and Serena Williams won in contrasting fashion Thursday to set up their fourth all-sister Wimbledon final and eighth meeting in a Grand Slam title match.

Two-time champion Serena saved a match point and overcame Elena Dementieva 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-2 in 2 hours, 49 minutes—the longest women's semifinal at Wimbledon in at least 40 years. Five-time winner Venus needed only 51 minutes to demolish Dinara Safina 6-1, 6-0 and reach her eighth Wimbledon final.

"Oh, my God, this is my eighth final, and it's a dream come to true to be here again and have the opportunity to hold the plate up," Venus said.

The sisters, who hold 17 Grand Slam titles between them, will face each other in a Fourth of July final.

"A fourth final—it's so exciting. It was so hard before my match to watch all that drama," Venus said, referring to Serena's semifinal. "It was so difficult. But the hardest part is next to come, to play Serena Williams."

One Williams or the other has won seven of the past nine championships at the All England Club. Serena beat Venus in the 2002 and '03 finals, and Venus beat her younger sister last year.

Venus is bidding to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991-93 to win Wimbledon three years in a row.

There have been seven previous all-Williams championship matches in majors, with Serena holding a 5-2 lead. Overall, the sisters are 10-10.

"The more we play, the better it gets," Serena said. "When we play our match on Saturday, you know, it's for everything. This is what we dreamed of when we were growing up in Compton (Calif.) 20-something years ago. This is

what we worked for, and this is what we want. Like I wanted her to win today and she wanted me to win today. It's all come down to this."

The difference in the semifinals couldn't have been more striking.

The Serena-Dementieva match was the longest women's Wimbledon semifinal by time since 1969; records are incomplete before then. Venus' victory was the most one-sided women's semifinal since Billie Jean King beat Rosie Casals by the same score in 1969. The last time a semifinal ended 6-0, 6-0 was in 1925.

After Serena's tense, drama-filled escape against Dementieva, Venus barely broke a sweat against Safina. The Russian is ranked and seeded No. 1 despite never having won a Grand Slam tournament. Safina won only 20 points and was completely outclassed by the third-seeded Venus, who has been playing some of her best grass-court tennis in this tournament.

One remarkable statistic summed it up: Venus was credited with just one unforced error in the match. She had 16 winners, while Safina had 16 unforced errors and six winners.

"I went out there and I was able to really stay focused," Venus said. "I have so much experience on this court. It helps a lot."

Serena, meanwhile, was pushed to the limit by the fourth-seeded Dementieva but raised her game when needed.

"It's definitely one of my more dramatic victories, for sure," Serena said.

Dementieva, who has never won a Grand Slam title, played one of the best matches of her career and nearly eliminated a player who has won 10 majors.

"Elena played so well, and we gave the crowd a wonderful match," Serena said. "It was really, really tough."

Pistons: Gordon might be reserve for Detroit

PISTONS, FROM BACK PAGE

While the 6-foot-11 Villanueva can easily slip into the starting lineup, the 6-3, 200-pound Gordon does not seem to have a spot secured.

Gordon likely has to replace leading-scorer Richard Hamilton at shooting guard or come off the bench behind him.

Gordon was voted the NBA's top reserve in 2005 and if he accepts that role again, the Pistons would have an intriguing three-guard rotation with him, Hamilton and Rodney Stuckey.

Gordon or Hamilton might have

a problem with coming off the bench and the next coach could have to deal with poor chemistry just as Curry did.

If the Pistons have enough money—and talent—to re-sign Antonio McDyess, one of the most likable players in the league can help them cope with issues on and off the court.

McDyess, though, is a free agent with plenty of options.

"We are in the process of evaluating our options and will make a decision shortly," McDyess' agent, Andy Miller, wrote in a text message to the AP.

Interservice scorecard

Softball

Firecracker Shootout
At Gunnars Fitness Center Softball Fields, Camp Foster, Okinawa
Pool-play standings
Men's Pool A

	1-0
American Legion, Okinawa	1-0
Camp Humphreys, South Korea	0-0
Master Batters, Okinawa	0-0
Anglico, Okinawa	0-0
Yokota Air Base, Japan	0-1
Scuttle Chunks, Okinawa	0-1

Thursday's games
Camp Humphreys 9, Yokota Air Base 8
American Legion 39, Scuttle Chunks 1

Friday's games
Master Batters vs. Anglico, 1 a.m.

Camp Humphreys vs. Scuttle Chunks, 4 a.m.

Yokota Air Base vs. Anglico, 8 a.m.

American Legion vs. Master Batters, 9 a.m.

Camp Humphreys vs. Anglico, 10 a.m.

Scuttle Chunks vs. Master Batters, noon

American Legion vs. Yokota Air Base, 1 p.m.

Camp Humphreys vs. Master Batters, 3 p.m.

American Legion vs. Anglico, 4 p.m.

Yokota Air Base vs. Scuttle Chunks, 5 p.m.

American Legion vs. Camp Humphreys, 6 p.m.

Master Batters vs. Yokota Air Base, midnight

Saturday's game
Anglico vs. Scuttle Chunks, 2 a.m.

Men's Pool B

	1-0
Misawa Outlaws, Japan	1-0
Yellow Box, Okinawa	0-0
Heat, Okinawa	0-0
Endus, Okinawa	0-0
Whiskey D, Okinawa	0-0
Honcho Dragons, Japan	0-1

Thursday's games
Misawa Outlaws 14, Honcho Dragons 12

Heat vs. Whiskey D, late

Friday's games

Yellow Box vs. Endus, 2 a.m.

Honcho Dragons vs. Whiskey D, 5 a.m.

Misawa Outlaws vs. Endus, 8 a.m.

Yellow Box vs. Heat, 9 a.m.

Misawa Outlaws vs. Heat, 11 a.m.

Honcho Dragons vs. Endus, 11 a.m.

Whiskey D vs. Yellow Box, noon

Honcho Dragons vs. Yellow Box, 2 p.m.

Endus vs. Heat, 5 p.m.

Misawa Outlaws vs. Whiskey D, 6 p.m.

Honcho Dragons vs. Heat, 8 p.m.

Saturday's games

Yellow Box vs. Misawa Outlaws, 1 a.m.

Endus vs. Whiskey D, 3 a.m.

Men's Pool C

	1-0
Camp Casey/Area I, South Korea	1-0
Club Red, Okinawa	0-0
Yongsan Garrison, South Korea	0-0

Paddy Mac's, Okinawa

Unknowns, Okinawa

Thursday's games

Camp Casey/Area I 13, Unknowns 0

Club Red vs. Paddy Mac's, late

Club Red vs. Camp Casey/Area I, 3 a.m.

Club Red vs. Unknowns, 7 a.m.

Camp Casey/Area I vs. Paddy Mac's, 10 a.m.

Paddy Mac's vs. Unknowns, 2 p.m.

Club Red vs. Yongsan Garrison, 4 p.m.

Yongsan Garrison vs. Camp Casey/Area I, 7 p.m.

Yongsan Garrison vs. Unknowns, 9 p.m.

Yongsan Garrison vs. Paddy Mac's, 11 p.m.

Men's double-elimination playoffs

Saturday's games

Game 1-C2 vs. B4, 6 a.m.

Game 2-C3 vs. A4, 7:30 a.m.

Game 3-B2 vs. A3, 7:30 a.m.

Game 4-B3 vs. C4, 9 a.m.

Game 5-Game 1 winner vs. A2, 9 a.m.

Game 6-Game 2 winner vs. B1, 10:30 a.m.

Game 7-Game 3 winner vs. C1, 10:30 a.m.

Game 8-Game 4 winner vs. A1, noon

Game 9-Game 3 loser vs. Game 5 loser, noon

Game 10-Game 4 loser vs. Game 6 loser, 1:30 p.m.

Game 11-Game 1 loser vs. Game 7 loser, 1:30 p.m.

Game 12-Game 2 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 3 p.m.

Game 13-Game 9 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 3 p.m.

Game 14-Game 11 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 4:30 p.m.

Game 15-Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 6 p.m.

Game 16-Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 6 p.m.

Game 17-Game 13 winner vs. Game 18 winner, 8 p.m.

Game 18-Game 17 winner vs. Game 19 winner, 9 p.m.

Game 19-Game 15 winner vs. Game 20 winner, 10:30 p.m.

Game 20-Game 17 winner vs. Game 21 winner, 12:30 p.m.

Game 21-Game 19 winner vs. Game 22 winner, 3:30 p.m.

Women's Pool X

Pitchslap, Okinawa

Yongsan Garrison, South Korea

Misawa Outlaws, Japan

Okinawa Typhoons

Osan Air Base, South Korea

Thursday's games

Pitchslap 14, Osan Air Base 3

Osan Air Base vs. Okinawa Typhoons, late

Misawa Outlaws vs. Pitchslap, late

Friday's games

Pitchslap 10 vs. Misawa Outlaws, 10 a.m.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

All-Army infielder Buck Buchanan of Camp Humphreys, South Korea, takes a swing against Yokota Air Base, Japan, during Thursday's pool-play game in the Firecracker Shootout Interservice Softball Tournament at Camp Foster, Okinawa. Humphreys won 9-8.

Misawa Outlaws vs. Okinawa Typhoons, noon

Yongsan Garrison vs. Pitchslap, 3 p.m.

Yongsan Garrison vs. Okinawa Typhoons, 4 p.m.

Okinawa Typhoons vs. Pitchslap, 6 p.m.

Yongsan Garrison vs. Osan Air Base, 8 p.m.

Yongsan Garrison vs. Misawa Outlaws, 9 p.m.

Women's Pool W

Yard Busters, Okinawa

Yard Busters 22, Camp Humphreys 0

Yard Busters vs. Camp Casey/Area I, late

Friday's games

Camp Humphreys vs. Yokota Air Base, 11 a.m.

Camp Casey/Area I vs. Yokota Air Base, 2 p.m.

Yard Busters vs. Yokota Air Base, 5 p.m.

Women's double-elimination playoffs

Saturday's games

Game 1-W4 vs. X5, 1 a.m.

Game 2-W1 vs. X4, 2:30 a.m.

Game 3-X2 vs. W3, 4 a.m.

Game 4-Game 1 winner vs. X1, 5:30 a.m.

Game 5-W2 vs. X3, 7 a.m.

Game 6-Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 9:30 a.m.

Game 7-Game 4 loser vs. Game 5 loser, 11 a.m.

Game 8-Game 2 winner vs. Game 3 winner, 12:30 p.m.

Game 9-Game 3 loser vs. Game 6 winner, 3:30 p.m.

Game 10-Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 2 p.m.

Game 11-Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 loser, 6 p.m.

Game 12-Game 9 winner vs. Game 10 loser, 7:30 p.m.

Game 13-Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 9 p.m.

Game 14-Game 11 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's games

Crusaders vs. Ace Hardware, 11 a.m.

Third-place game

Teams to be determined, 2 p.m.

Championship

Teams TBD, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday's games

Crusaders vs. Ace Hardware, 11 a.m.

Third-place game

Teams to be determined, 2 p.m.

Championship

Teams TBD, 3:30 p.m.

MLB briefs

Wilson apologizes as Pirates keep dealing

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Shortstop Jack Wilson apologized to the Pittsburgh Pirates on Wednesday for criticizing the team's latest trades, saying his frustration at losing three more teammates made it seem as if he were angry at his own club.

Wilson was clearly upset after the Pirates traded outfielder Nyjer Morgan on Tuesday, saying he was "beyond tired of such moves" — including last month's deal that sent All-Star outfielder Nate McLouth to Atlanta.

"It's tough for the guys who've been here and have seen these trades happen and absolutely do nothing," Wilson said several hours after the deals were made. "I've seen these trades two or three times a year and we still haven't had a winning season."

Wilson expressed disappointment before Wednesday's game against the Chicago Cubs that his remarks appeared to be overly critical of management.

"Some of my comments were pretty harsh," he said. "I definitely don't want to be the guy who is butting heads with the organization or trying to cause any type of negativity, so I apologize."

"When you are here in the moment and you're talking to guys and everyone is bummed out, you maybe lose your head a little bit and vent. A lot of the things I said, I thought about ... and they were pretty inaccurate," he said.

The latest trades — the Pirates also shed backup outfielder Eric Hinske and reliever Sean Burnett — were unpopular among the players, though not as much as the McLouth deal. That trade — McLouth for three prospects — caused first baseman Adam LaRoche to say every player in the clubhouse was furious.

The Morgan deal upset players who wondered why a productive outfielder with a good attitude who brought speed to the top of the lineup was being traded for Lastings Milledge, a failed prospect with the New York Mets and Washington Nationals.

Leyritz arrested for battery

DAVIE, Fla. — Former major leaguer Jim Leyritz was arrested Thursday on a charge of domestic battery against his ex-wife, just



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton watches a foul ball during the first inning of a rehab start for the Oklahoma City Redhawks on Wednesday in Des Moines, Iowa. Hamilton batted seven times in the 14-inning game with one hit, but did not play in the field.

two months before his trial on a DUI manslaughter charge was set to begin.

Leyritz, 45, was arrested at his home in Davie, a Fort Lauderdale suburb, a police report said. He was being held in the Broward County Jail.

Leyritz's ex-wife, Karrie, gave conflicting reports of what happened, according to the officer who responded to a domestic disturbance at the house. She first told police they were arguing over child support when he struck her twice in the face and pushed her to the ground for writing a check without his permission. She later said her ex-husband dragged her out of bed and pushed her against the wall.

He told police she was drunk and hurt herself to get back at him for trying to evict her from the house they share.

The couple has three children who were sleeping when officers arrived, the report said.

Leyritz is scheduled to go on trial on the manslaughter charge Sept. 14. Police have said Leyritz was drunk when he caused a fatal car crash in December 2007.

Nady facing more surgery

NEW YORK — New York Yankees outfielder Xavier Nady will have ligament replacement surgery on his right elbow July 8 after re-injuring it during a minor league rehab game.

"I'm extremely disappointed for him because we thought we were going to get him back this month," manager Joe Girardi said. "He'll be back. Your heart goes out to him because it's a lot to deal with."

Also on Tuesday, the Yankees obtained utility player Eric Hin-

ske from the Pittsburgh Pirates, optioning infielder Ramiro Pena to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on Wednesday to make room.

No surgery for D-Backs' Webb

PHOENIX — Arizona Diamondbacks ace Brandon Webb will not have surgery on his ailing pitching shoulder, hoping rest and a strengthening program will allow him to pitch again this season.

Webb made the decision Wednesday after meeting with team doctors and three other physicians.

The 2006 NL Cy Young Award winner, who won 56 games from 2006-08, has been sidelined since opening day. He will begin a regimen to strengthen the shoulder but isn't expected to throw for several weeks. There is no timetable for his return.

Webb, who won 22 games last season, made only one start before going on the disabled list with a sore shoulder. He had a setback last month while playing catch, prompting him to see several doctors to get advice on whether to have surgery or try to let the shoulder heal with rest and a strengthening program.

Hamilton 1-for-7 in rehab start

DES MOINES, Iowa — When the Texas Rangers sent Josh Hamilton to Triple-A Oklahoma City for rehabilitation, they didn't envision their All-Star slugger getting two games' worth of at-bats in one night. That's essentially what he got Wednesday, when he went 1 for 7 and struck out twice as the designated hitter in a 1-0 victory over Iowa that went 14 innings.

Hamilton was expected to play center field, but the Rangers decided to use him as the DH. Hamilton, who led off the game by striking out, singled up the middle in the 10th and struck out to end the 14th.

Hamilton will likely play in the field Thursday and possibly Friday. He said he's hoping to rejoin Texas for Saturday's home game against Tampa Bay.

Hamilton has been on the disabled list since May 31 with a slight abdominal tear. He's batting .240 with six home runs and 24 RBIs in 35 games for the Rangers.

Cubs get Baker from Rockies

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs acquired infielder Jeff Baker from the Colorado Rockies on Thursday in exchange for minor league right-handed pitcher Al Alburquerque. The Cubs also designated infielder Ryan Freel for assignment.

Baker batted .268 with 12 home runs and 48 RBIs in 104 games last year for the Rockies and can play several infield positions and the outfield. He's played only 12 games this season because of a sprained left hand that sent him to the disabled list April 29.

Francisco back as Texas closer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Frank Francisco had a mixed return to the role of closer for the Texas Rangers on Wednesday night against the Los Angeles Angels. He got a blown save when the Angels' Juan Rivera hit a three-run homer in the top of the ninth to tie the game 7-7. Francisco (2-1) got the victory when Hank Blalock homered in the bottom of the ninth.

Francisco had two stints on the DL this season, and has been used mostly as a setup man since he was activated on June 20.

C.J. Wilson, who handled the bulk of the save situations while Francisco recovered from the shoulder problem, will be used as a left-handed setup man. Wilson was 7-8 in save opportunities.

DeRosa could miss 3-4 games

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Cardinals' Mark DeRosa is expected to miss 3-4 games because of a strained tendon in his left wrist. He was hurt in the fourth inning Tuesday and was removed for a pinch hitter in the sixth when the wrist worsened.

Baseball adds an All-Star

NEW YORK — Baseball is expanding All-Star rosters again.

Each league will have 33 players for the July 14 game at St. Louis, with an extra pitcher added to bring the total to 13. The commissioner's office said Wednesday the extra spot will be a manager's choice.

Rosters will be announced Sunday.

STARS AND STRIPES
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July 4, 2009



NL roundup

Votto beats Arizona second day in a row

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Joey Votto singled with the bases loaded and two outs in the 10th inning Thursday as the Cincinnati Reds ended an afternoon of wasted chances by beating the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-2.

Cincinnati loaded the bases with none out against Clay Zavada (1-2), stringing together a walk and two singles. After Laynce Nix struck out and Jerry Hairston Jr. flied to shallow right, Votto singled past shortstop Augie Ojeda for his fourth hit of the game.

Francisco Cordero (1-2) escaped a bases-loaded threat in the 10th with the help of a double play. With one out, Justin Upton hit a routine fly to right fielder Jay Bruce, whose throw home beat Alex Romero trying to score from third.

Bruce then had a bunt single during the Reds' winning rally.

Arizona lost for the 10th time in 12 games, falling 16 games under .500 for the second time this season. The Diamondbacks have repeatedly wasted good pitching during the slump, done in by bad defense and a low-scoring offense.

The Diamondbacks were in position to get a victory for tough-luck starter Doug Davis, who gave up one run through seven innings. But reliever Chad Qualls let a 2-1 lead get away in the ninth when Drew Sutton grounded into a forceout that produced the tying run in his first big-league plate appearance.

Cincinnati repeatedly wasted chances against Davis, loading the bases twice but failing to score. The Reds finally got it right in the 10th.

It was another case of the Diamondbacks wasting a solid performance by a starting pitcher.

Davis is 0-2 with three no-decisions in his past five starts, which is no reflection on his performance. He'd given up only five earned runs in his previous four games.

Aaron Harang, the Cincinnati starter, hasn't won since May 25, going 0-4 with three no-decisions. He gave up two runs in seven innings on Thursday, including Mark Reynolds' solo homer that made it 2-1 in the sixth.

In Wednesday games:

Reds 1, Diamondbacks 0: At Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto walked four of the first eight batters he faced while experiencing back pain, then allowed only an infield hits through the remainder of a six-inning outing. Joey Votto's single in the sixth inning off Jon Garland (4-8) accounted for the only run.

The Diamondbacks threatened in the seventh against reliever Arthur Rhodes, who gave up Gerardo Parra's bunt single and two walks to load the bases with two outs. Felipe Lopez flied out, and the last seven Diamondbacks went down in order.

Francisco Cordero pitched a perfect ninth for his 19th save.

Jon Garland (4-8) pitched six innings but couldn't break the longest losing streak of his career. The right-hander hasn't won since May 19, going 0-6 with a pair of no-decisions. Arizona scored three or fewer runs in five of those games.

Mets 1, Brewers 0: At Milwaukee, the Mets overcame Yovani Gallardo's career-high 12 strikeouts and ended a five-game losing streak. Mike Pelfrey (6-3) gave up six hits and two walks in 7 2/3 innings. He gave up a single and a walk with two outs in the eighth, but Sean Green got J.J. Hardy on a force play. Francisco Rodriguez finished for his 21st save.

Dodgers 1, Rockies 0: At Los Angeles, Rafael Furcal had a pinch-hit RBI single in the eighth as Los Angeles won in the final game of Manny Ramirez's 50-game suspension for violating baseball's drug rules.

The Dodgers were 29-21 during Ramirez's absence. The 12-time All-Star will return to the lineup Friday night for the start of a three-game series at San Diego.

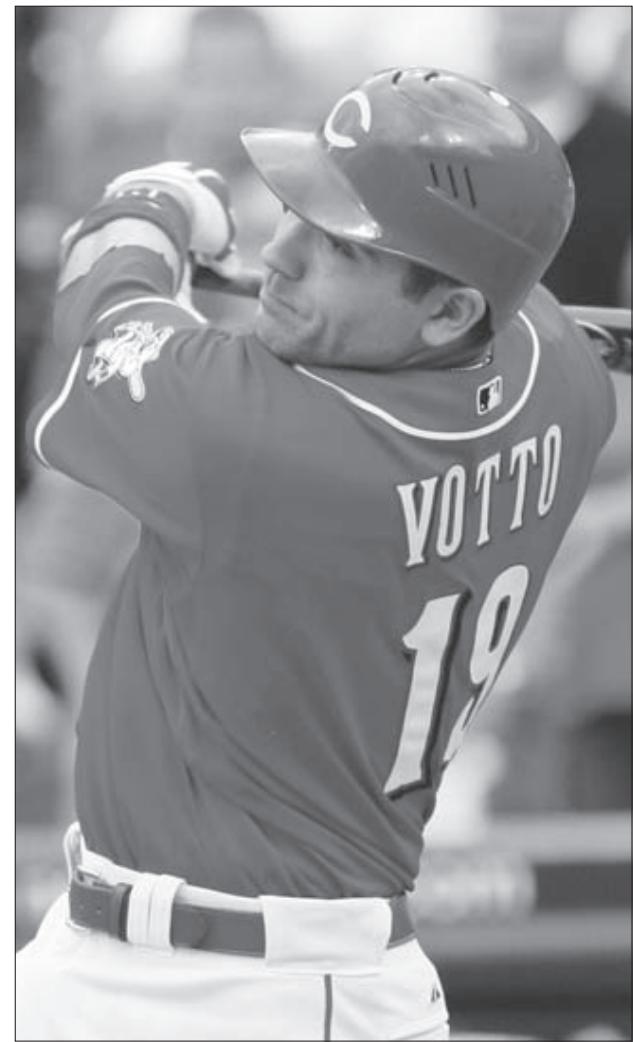
Braves 11, Phillies 1: At Atlanta, Jair Jurrjens lost a no-hit bid with two outs in the seventh. Jurrjens (6-6) began the night with the seventh-lowest run support in the majors, including only five runs in his past four losses. That lack of support ended as the Braves scored seven runs off Cole Hamels (4-5), who left the game after giving up three hits and a walk in the fifth.

Cubs 4, Pirates 1: At Pittsburgh, Derrek Lee and Kosuke Fukudome homered and Randy Wells allowed a run and six hits over seven innings for his third straight victory. Chicago won two of three in the series to win its eighth in the past nine against Pittsburgh.

Cardinals 2, Giants 1 (10): At St. Louis, rookie Colby Rasmus led off the 10th inning with a homer after rookie third baseman Pablo Sandoval dropped his foul pop-up earlier in the at-bat.

Sandoval circled Rasmus' foul ball off a 2-2 pitch from Bob Howry (0-4), arriving late and missing with a stab of his glove. Three pitches later, Rasmus homered to center. Ryan Franklin (2-0) worked a perfect 10th.

Astros 7, Padres 1: At San Diego, Brian Moehler (5-4) and two relievers held San Diego to five hits. San Diego has lost 11 of its past 16 home games, and seven of eight against the Astros dating to last season.



AL BEHRMAN/AP

Cincinnati's Joey Votto singles in the 10th inning Thursday off Arizona reliever Clay Zavada to give the Reds a 3-2 victory.

AL roundup

Absent offense shows up as Texas tops Angels

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — With their offense hitting the skids in June, the Texas Rangers were dropping fast in the division standings. Just in time, Texas broke out of its monthlong slumber to keep things interesting in the American League West.

Hank Blalock's second homer of the game, a two-run shot with two outs in the ninth inning, gave Texas a 9-7 victory Wednesday night over Los Angeles and moved the Rangers within a half game of the first-place Angels in the division.

Texas was hitting .221 in June before breaking out with five home runs in a 9-5 victory Tuesday over Los Angeles.

The Rangers played small ball early to get a 7-1 lead, then used Blalock's blast to hold on.

"There will be times when things don't go right, and that was one of those times," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "Those guys never dropped their heads. We try to play the game the way it's presented to us."

Michael Young singled off Justin Speier (3-2) leading off the Texas ninth. David Murphy dropped down a sacrifice bunt to move Young to second and Marlon Byrd struck out.

Blalock, who homered in the fourth, hit the first pitch into the grassy area beyond the fence in center field.

"I tried to throw a backdoor slider," Speier said. "That was not the right pitch."

Texas took two of three from the Angels and is 5-1 against Los Angeles this season. The teams meet again for a three-game set next week in California.

"I don't know if it's a statement," said Texas' Kevin Millwood, who allowed four runs in 6 1/3 innings. "I think the statement is that our offense looks like it's back to where it's been in the past."

The Angels scored three times each in the seventh and ninth to tie it. Juan Rivera's three-run homer with two outs in the top of the ninth off Frank Francisco (2-1) made it 7-7.

Yankees 4, Mariners 2: Alex Rodriguez hit a tiebreaking homer and Andy Pettitte (8-3) pitched seven innings in host New York's seventh straight victory. Johnny Damon and Melky Cabrera also went deep for the Yankees, who overcame Ken Griffey Jr.'s 621st home run.

Mariano Rivera saved his third consecutive game, increasing his career total to 502 and getting his 20th in 21 chances this season.

White Sox 6, Indians 2: Jose Contreras got a rare road victory, pitching eight innings as Chicago won its fifth straight. Contreras (3-7) improved to 3-2 with a 2.17 ERA since being recalled from the minors. The right-hander, who was 1-6 in his previous 10 road starts, allowed two runs and five hits with eight strikeouts.

Cleveland has dropped five straight and 13 of 15.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 5 (11): Visiting Boston used a four-run ninth to pull even, and Julio Lugo singled in the tiebreaking run in the 11th. Jonathan Papelbon got three outs in the 11th for his 20th save this season and the 133rd with the Red Sox, breaking the team record held by Bob Stanley.

Ramon Ramirez (5-2) worked the 10th as the Red Sox, who took two of three from Baltimore, won a seventh straight series.

Twins 5, Royals 1: At Kansas City, Mo., Joe Mauer went 3-for-3, raising his average to .392 and backing pitcher Glen Perkins (4-4).

After walking in the first inning, Mauer stroked three consecutive singles, driving in one run and scoring one as the Twins completed a 6-3 trip that began in Milwaukee and St. Louis. He was walked intentionally in the eighth.

Athletics 5, Tigers 1: Jason Giambi and Jack Cust broke out of funks with two-run homers and host Oakland's Dallas Braden (6-7) went seven innings to end a four-start winless stretch.

Giambi's drive in the sixth off Justin Verlander (8-4) was his 407th, tying Duke Snider for 43rd on the career list.

SPORTS



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NBA

Pistons fire in free agency

Source: Detroit agrees to deals with Gordon, Villanueva

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

DETROIT — The Detroit Pistons wanted to add talent and get younger this offseason.

On the first day of free agency, Detroit did both.

Ben Gordon and Charlie Villanueva agreed in principle to five-year contracts with the Pistons, a person with the knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because NBA rules prohibit announcing deals with free agents until next week, said Gordon's contract is worth \$50-plus million and Villanueva will make at least \$35 million.

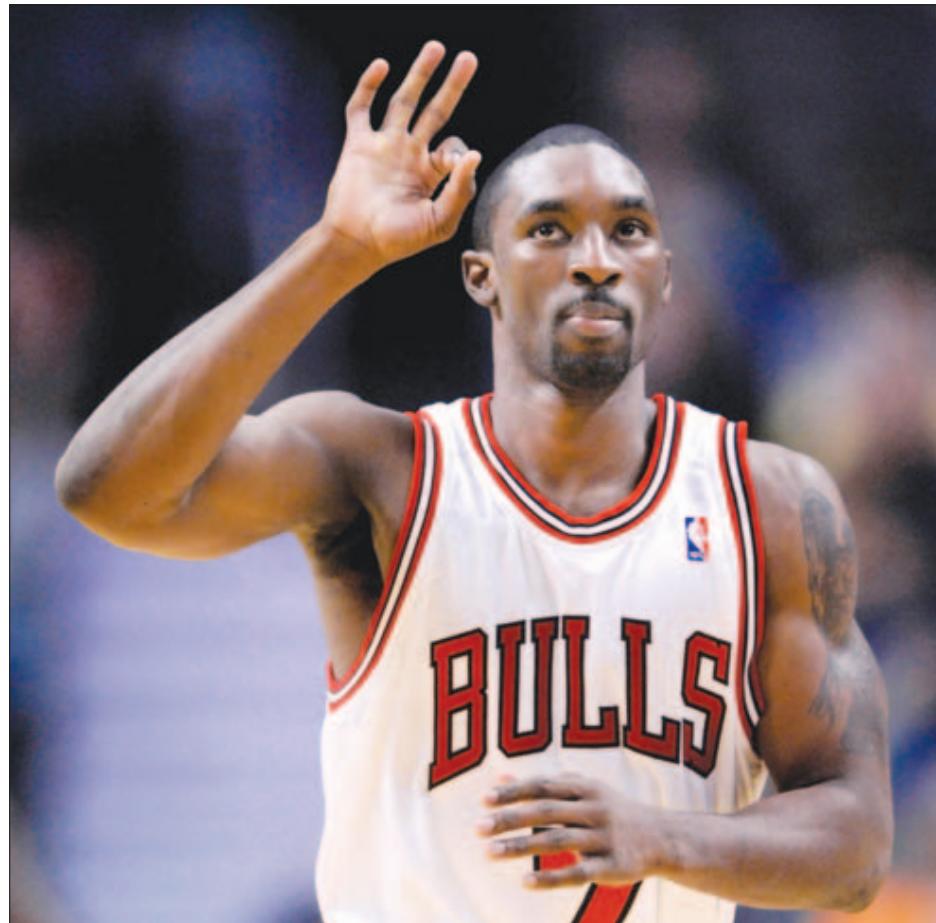
Gordon, 26, averaged 20.7 points last season for the Chicago Bulls, leading them in scoring for the fourth straight year.

He improved his market value by scoring 42 points in a playoff game against the defending champion Boston Celtics and averaging a team-high 24.3 points in seven playoff games.

Bulls officials had said re-signing Gordon, the No. 3 pick in 2004, was a top priority after previously failing to keep the former Connecticut star with a long-term contract.

Villanueva, who turns 25 next month, averaged 16.2 points and 6.7 rebounds last season for the Milwaukee Bucks. He went from being a restricted free agent to an unrestricted one when Milwaukee chose to not make him a qualifying offer.

The Toronto Raptors drafted Villanueva No. 7 overall out of Connecticut in 2005 and traded him to Milwaukee after his rookie season when he averaged 13 points and 6.4 rebounds and picked for the All-Rookie team.



Detroit desperately needed to make a splash this offseason, entering it with nearly \$20 million in salary-cap space and coming off its worst season in several years.

The Pistons had a lot of money to spend because Rasheed Wal-

lace and Allen Iverson had expiring contracts. The franchise wanted to infuse the roster with fresh options after breaking up a group of players that won the 2004 NBA title and advanced to six straight conference finals.

Detroit was swept by the Cleve-

land Cavaliers in the first round this season, mercifully ending a miserable season that soured as soon as All-Star point guard Chauncey Billups was dealt to the Denver Nuggets for Iverson and his cap space.

Michael Curry, who struggled



The Detroit Pistons, who had ample salary-cap space heading into the NBA free-agency period, appear to have made a splash with their surplus of cash. According to a source, the Pistons agreed to five-year deals with Ben Gordon, left, who led the Chicago Bulls in scoring the past four years, and Charlie Villanueva, above, who averaged 16.2 points a game last season for the Milwaukee Bucks.

AP photos

as a rookie coach in a tough situation, was fired Tuesday and might be replaced by Avery Johnson, Doug Collins or John Kuester by this weekend.

Detroit's fifth coach in nine seasons will potentially have an interesting decision to make if the roster remains intact.

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It's another all-Williams Wimbledon final for Serena, Venus
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Mayfield gets injunction to drive but has no ride

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**NL roundup:
Votto's single in 10th beats Diamondbacks**

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